THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,

From the Year 1638. to the Year 1649. Inclusive.

Printed in the Year MDCLXXXII.

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To which are now added

the INDEX of the Unprint S of these

ASSEMBLIES; and A CTS of the

GENERAL A LY 1690.

Printed in the Year 1691.

y George Mosman Printer to the

BLY, at his Shop in the Parliament-

upon the reformation of other Kirks, *and choosing to receive our directions from our own* Reformation, *approven by the ample testimony of so many* Forreign Divines: *according to the example of the venerable* Assembly *at* Dort, *where special caution was, that the* 30. *and* 31. *article of the* Confession *of the* Belgick Kirks *touching* Ecclesiastick Order *should not be examined by* Strangers, *there being a* Difference *touching that point amongst* Reformed Kirks. *So many as were present can bear witness that all the* Members of the Assembly *were many times called on, and required to propone their* Doubts, *and to give their* Judgments *of every* Article, *before it was Enacted, that every one might receive* Satisfaction, *and from the full perswasion of his mind might give his* Voice: *Wherein the* Unanimity *and* Harmony *was the more admirable, that many parting from their* preconceived Opinions, *which had possessed their* Minds, *did most willingly receive the* Light, *which did now unexpectedly appear from the* Records

of the Kirk.

this Extract *shall stop the* Mouthes *of the*

than we can promise, or should

there be some Incendiaries

joy and content of mind,

seek their most pen[illegible] of this poor Kirk

and

and Kingdom: And we have already found, that our Laboures, *and the grounds whereupon we have proceeded, before they be ſeen, are miſconſtrued by ſo many as finds their hopes blaſted, and are come ſhort of their earthly projects: but our comfort is, that we have walked in the truth of our hearts, as in the ſight of God, That the Adverſaries of the Kirk have not transformed themſelves into Angels of light, nor can ſay they are doing* God *ſervice, but are ſeen in their colours, and do ſeek themſelves, and that ſo many as have erred before, not knowing the order and conſtitutions of this Kirk, will as obedient Children to their mother ſpeaking plainly and powerfully of old, and now after long ſilence opening her mouth again, and uttering her mind in a free Aſſembly, hear her voice, and with that reverence that beſeemeth under the ſupreme Majeſty of* Chriſt, *obey her directions, that being all of one mind, peace may be upon us, and upon the Kirk of* God *and the* God *of peace, and love may be with us.*

1639.

TO THE READER.

T were long, neither do we now intend, to repreſent, what in the beginning, by the Mercies of our God *and Miniſtry of his faithful Servants, was the reformation of this Kirk: what purity of Doctrine and Worſhip, what Order, what Authority, and what Unity continued for many years, by the Prayers and Labours of Miniſters and Profeſſors, what Novations and Corruptions have been introduced upon us of late, in the time of our Diviſion and* Defection, *by ſuch as have ever been enemies to the Croſs of* Chriſt, *and who have minded earthly things:* How *manifold and how comfortable experience we have at this time of the care and compaſſions of our* Lord *and* Saviour *preventing the utter ruine of Religion, and the horrible vaſtation of this Kirk, by looking upon the afflictions of his people, by hearing their groans, mocked by the World: And by moving the Heart*

of our gracious and dread Soveraign the King's *Majesty to conveen a free national Assembly, for redressing the wrongs done to Religion, and what undeniable testimonies, and notable manifestations of the divine presence and assistance of* Christ, *have accompanied this meeting and whole work.* Who so is wise and observeth these things will see the loving kindness of the *Lord.*

For the present it seemed necessary that such of the Acts and Constitutions of the Assembly as are of most general concernment should be published in print; the correct writing of so many Copies as were called for, not being possible to be exped in due time, and the Kirk having resolved upon this course in former times, which, had it been keeped, our defection through the almost invincible ignorance of the proceedings of the Kirk, had not proven so dangerous and deplorable.

In these Acts and Constitutions special regard was had to our National Confession of Faith, *as it was at first and diverse times after professed and is now of late sworn and subscribed, that all mens minds, who delight not to cavil, might rest satisfied in the true meaning thereof, found out by the diligent search of the Ecclesiastick Registers. Our care was also rather at this time to revive and bring to light, former laudable Acts, than to make any new ones, reflecting as little as might*

be

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

olden and Begun at *Edinburgh* the 16*th.* day of *Octo-*
ber 1690. And ending the 13*th* day of *November* next
thereafter.

1.

Meeting of the General Assembly, *and the Record-*
ing of Their Majesties Commission, *to* John *Lord* Car-
michael, *for Representing Their Majesties therein.*

nburgh 16 *of October* 1690. *Post Meridiem.* Sess. 1.

THis day, being a day of Solemn Fast-
ing and Humiliation, the General
Assembly of the Ministers and El-
ders of this Church; did after Ser-
mons (in the Forenoon by Mr.
Gabriel Cunningham Moderator of the
last General Meeting, and in the Afternoon by Mr.

Patrick Sympson Moderator of the preceeding Gener
Meeting) Conveen in the Assembly-House at *Edi*
burgh, according to the Indiction of an Act of the cur
rent Parliament, dated the 7 day of *June* last, and Di
rections given by the late General Meeting of the Mi
nisters and Elders of this Church: And after Prayer
there was produced to them, by an Noble Lord *Joh*
Lord *Carmichael*, Their Majesties Commission, fo
his being Their Majesties High Commissioner and
Representative to this General Assembly, Dated a
Kensington, the 10 day of *October* 1690. Which wa
with all due Respect publickly read: And Mr. *Gabri*
Cuningham, Moderator for the time, did in the Assem-
blies Name, Represent to his Grace, how Great a
Mercy it was to this Church and Kingdom, that Their
Majesties had Countenanced this Assembly, with Their
Authority, and Honoured it with a Representative of
Their Royal Persons: And the Assemblies great Satis-
faction, with Their Majesties choice of a person so well
Qualified, and so Acceptable to this Assembly, to Re-
present Their Majesties therein. To whom His Grace
was pleased to give this return, That it was his firm
Resolution, in the Capacity, wherein Their Majes-
ties had now put him, to lay out himself for their Ma-
jesties Service, and the good of the Church. The As-
sembly appointed the said Commission to be Recorded
in Their Books, *ad futuram rei Memoriam*: The Te-
nour whereof follows.

GUIL-

GULIELMUS & MARIA, Dei Gratia, Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Franciæ* & *Hiberniæ*, Rex & Regina, ...que Defensores, Omnibus probis Hominibus, ad ...os præsentes Literæ Nostræ pervenerint, *Salutem*. ...andoquidem per actum, in secundâ Sessione Cur... ...tis hujus nostri Parliamenti, Expeditum, De stabi... ...do Ecclesiæ Regimine, in antiquiori hoc nostro Sco... ...e Regno; Primum Ecclesiæ illius Generalem Con... ...atum *Edinburgi*, Tertio die Jovis, Mensis *Octobris* In... ...tis, teneri Ordinavimus: Nos autem (Rebus mag... Momenti alio vocantibus) In dicto Conventu in... ...esse nequimus: Abunde vero Cupidi, ut Idem Ge... ...ralis Conventus, ad Religionem veram Reformatam ...lius firmandam, Pietatem & Sanctitatem Propagan... ...m, Pacem itaque & Unitatem, in dictâ Ecclesiâ, & ...c nostro antiquiore Regno acquirendam; methodo ...bitâ & Regulari, Observetur: Cumque Testimoni... ... perplurimis & probatis, nobis abunde satisfactum ..., de *Præclaris* animi dotibus, & fide eximiâ, fidelis... ...mi & dilectissimi nostri Consiliarii *Joannis* Domini *Carmichael*, quibus ad summæ fiduciæ Munus infra ex... ...pressum, debite & exacte obeundum & excercendum, ...ique quaque est adaptatus: Noveritis igitur nos No... ...minasse & Constituisse, sicuti per hasce nostras Patentes Literas, Nominamus & Constituimus Eundem *Joannem* Dominum *Carmichael*, Supremum nostrum Com... ...missionarium, quoad effectum infra expressum: Da... ...mus pariter & concedimus illi, sacram Nostram Per...

lonam & Authoritatem Regiam Repræsentandi, ac pro nobis præsentiam faciendi, locumque nostrum in subsequenti Generali Conventu, Tanquam Commissionario nostro, in hunc effectum specialiter Constituto tenendi: Omniaque alia ad Imperium & Munus Commissionarii, pro Generali Ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis Respectu quam Quilibet alius ejusdem Muneris & Characteris, retroacto, seu quovis tempore retroacto facere potuerit, atque adeo sicuti Nosmet ipsi personaliter præsentes Possemus. Plenissimam & amplissimam Nostram Potestatem & Commissionem. Quæquidem omnia & singula, a dicto *Joanne* Domino *Carmichael*, in hac nostra Commissione prosequendâ, legitime faciendâ, Nos firmiter approbamus, Rata habemus, & habituri sumus. Omnibus & singulis insuper antedicti Conventus, & Ecclesiæ Pastoribus & Presbyteris, ac Cæteris quibuscumque hujus Nostri Regni Subditis, cujuscunque ordinis seu conditionis, ut eundem *Joannem* Dominum *Carmichael*, tanquam Supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum & modum supra mentionatum, agnoscant, Colant, & dicto ipsius audientes se præbeant, stricte Mandamus & Imperamus. Et denique hanc Nostram Commissionem, a die quo Magnum hujus Regni Nostri Sigillum, Presentibus est appensum, ad durante Primâ dicti Generalis Conventus Sessione, aut usque donec hæc Nostra Commissio per nos Revocetur, Continuare Declaravimus, ac per Præsentes Declaramus. In cujus rei Testimonium, Præsentibus Magnum Sigillum Nostrum appendi Mandavimus, Apud aulam Nostram de *Kensingtoun*, decimo

die

mensis *Octobris*, Anno Domini 1690. Regnique stri, Anno secundo.

Per signaturam manu S.D.N. Regis supra Signatam.

(locus sigilli appensi.)

IN DORSO:

Sealed at Edinburgh *the* 16th. *of* October 1690. *Alex. Inglis.*

Written to the Great Seal, and Registrat the 16 *day of* October 1690. Dun. Ronald *Dpt.*

II.

His MAJESTIES *Gracious Letter to the Assembly.*

Edinburgh 17 October 1690. *Ante Meridiem* Sess. 2.

THis Session, His Majesties Gracious Letter Direct to this General Assembly, was publickly Read and Heard with great Respect; and appointed to be Recorded in the Books of the Assembly, The Tenour whereof follows.

WILLIAM R.

Reverend, Trusty and Well Beloved,

OUR Concern for the Good of Our Ancient Kingdom, hath been such, That We have left nothing undone, that might Contribute to the making of it Happy: And therefore having been informed, that Differences as to the Government of the Church have caused greatest Confusions in that Nation; We did willingly

willingly concurre with Our Parliament, in In-acting such a Frame of it, as was judged to be most agreeable to the Inclinations of Our Good Subjects: To which as We have had a particular Regard, in Countenancing this Assembly, With Our Authority, and a Representative of Our Royall Person; So We expect, that Your Managment shall be such, as We shall have no reason, to Repent of what we have done. A Calm and Peaceable Procedure, will be no less pleasing to Us, than it becometh You. We never could be of the Mind, that Violence was suited to the advancing of True Religion: Nor do We intend, that Our Authority shall ever be a Tool, to the irregular Passions of any Party. Moderation is what Religion enjoynes, Neighbouring Churches expect from You, and We Recommend to You. And We assure You of Our constant Favour and Protection, in Your following of these Methods, which shall be for the real advantage of True Piety, and the Peace of Our Kingdoms. Given under our Royal Hand, At our Court at *Kensington* the 10 day of *October* 1690.

By His Majesties Command,

MELVIL.

Direct,

For the Reverend, Trusty and Well-Beloved, Ministers and Elders, met in the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. *At* Edinburgh.

The

III.

Assemblies Answer to His Majesties Gracious Letter.

nburgh, 18*th.* October 1690. *Post Meridiem* Sess. 4.

May it please Your Majesty,

Our Gracious Letter, Direct to the Ministers and Elders met here, in the General Assembly of the urch of *Scotland*; was Read and Heard among Us, h all Joy and Thankfulness, that the Rising and ning again of the Royal Favour, upon this long licted and distressed Church, could possibly Inspire: as Your Majesties Concern for the Good of this ur Ancient Kingdom, hath indeed been such, as hing can impair the Happy State whereunto You e Restored it, save the want of the due sense and derstanding of so great a Mercy; So We doe most rtily acknowledge, that through Your Majesties re and Kindness, the Church of Christ therein, doth ually partake of the same Blessing. It was the sad Conions, that differences as to the Government of the hurch, had caused in this Nation, that according to Your Majesties first Declaration, for our Relief, mov- our Gracious God, to Raise up and Prosper You, to e our Glorious Deliverer, for Effectuating the Reablishment that we now enjoy: So that we are perswaded, that it is not more Agreeable, to the Inclinations and Conscientious Perswasions of all within this Kingdom, who are best Affected to Your Majesties Person and Government, than it is acceptable to God,

and

and will be Your Majesties perpetual Peace and Satisfaction. Nor are we less Sensible of the particular Regard, Your Majestie professeth towards us, on this occasion, in Countenancing this Assembly, with Your Authority, and a Representative of Your Royal Person; for which we most humbly acknowledge Your Gracious Favour; especially that it hath pleased Your Majesty, to fix Your Choice, upon a Person so well Qualified, and so acceptable to Us. And now, Great Sir, after so many and so great Mercies and Favours Received from God and Your Majesty; We Hope we may with Confidence assure You, that our Management shall be such, as Your Majesty hath so just Reason to expect, and shall never give you cause to Repent of what You have done for Us. The God of Love, the Prince of Peace, with all the Providences that have gone over Us, and Circumstances that We are under, as well as Your Majesties most obliging Pleasure, Require of Us a Calme and Peaceable Procedure. And after the Violence for Conscience sake, that We have Suffered, and so much Detested, and these Grievous Abuses of Authority, in the late Reigns, Whereby through some Mens Irregular Passions, We have so sadly Smarted; We our selves, should Lapse into the same Errours, We should certainly prove the most Unjust towards God, Foolish towards our Selves, and Ungrate towards Your Majesty, of all Men on earth. Great Revolutions of this nature, must be attended, with Occasions of Complaint: And even the worst of Men, are Ready to cry out of Wrong, for their justest Deservings: But as Your Majesty Knows these things

too

o well, to give us the least Apprehension of any im-
ressions evil Report can make; So We assure Your
ajesty, as in the Presence of God, and in expecta-
on of his dreadfull Appearance, that We shall Study
at Moderation, which Your Majesty Recommends,
being convinced, that it is the Duty that Religion
joyns, and Neighbouring Churches doe most justly
pect from Us: Desiring in all things, to Approve
r selves unto God, as the true Disciples of Jesus
hrist, who, though most Zealous, against all Cor-
uptions in his Church, was most Gentle towards the
ersons of Men: And to maintain as much as in us lyes,
eace and Concord with all the Reformed Churches:
likewise to comply in all obsequious Duty, with all
at Your Majesty enjoynes, for the Real Advantage
true *Piety*, and the *Peace* of all Your Kingdoms.
eartily wishing, that God, who hath Graciously
ought back Your Majesties Person, in *Safety*, from
our Late, no less Generous, than Dangerous Expe-
tion, for his Cause and Truth, with joyfull Success;
ay still preserve Your Majesty, and Our most Gra-
ous Queen; Granting You long Life, Health, and
rosperity, And may Establish Your Throne, and
less Your Government, to the Glory of His Great
ame, the Good of all his Churches, and the welfare
f all Your People. Which shall ever be the earnest
rayer of.

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesties most Faithful,
most Obedient and most Humble Subjects.

Signed in our Presence, in our Name,
and at our Appointment, By
HU. KENNEDIE Moderator.

IV.

Appointment of a Diet, to be kept by the Assembly for Prayer.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly Appoints *Monday* next, betwixt Eight and Twelve a Clock in the Forenoon, to be set a part for *Prayer*, by the Members of this Assembly: And Recommends to all the Members, to meet in the Assembly-House for that end, at Eight a Clock in the Morning.

V.

The proceedings of the Assembly, anent Mr. Thomas Lining *and Others.*

Edingburgh 25th. October *1690. Ante Meridiem.* Sess. 9.

THe General Assembly, having received a Report, from the Committee of Overtures, anent two Papers given in to the said Committee, and Subscribed by Mr. *Thomas Lining*, Mr. *Alexander Shields* and Mr. *William Boyd*, who had followed some Courses contrary to the Order of this Church; whereby, "The "said Committee out of their ardent Desire of Union "in the Church, Recommend to the Assembly, the "Reading of the Shorter of these two Papers: In "which the fore-named Persons Oblige themselves, "after the exhibiting of the larger Paper (which they offer,

offer, as they profess, for the Exoneration of their Consciences) and laying it down at the Assemblies feet, to be Disposed upon as the Assembly should think fit: That they shall in all required Submission, Subject Themselves, their Lives and Doctrine, to the Cognizance of the Respective Judicatories of this Church, and equally to Oppose Schism and Defection, in any Capacity, that they should be capable of. But the said Committee, Judgeth, the Reading of the larger of the said two Papers, in full Assembly, to be Inconvenient: In regard, That though there be several good Things in it, yet the same doth also contain, several Peremptory and gross Mistakes, Unreasonable and Impracticable Propolals, and Uncharitable and Injurious Reflections, tending rather to kindle Contentions, than to compose Divisions: Nevertheless, the said Committee, gives it as their Opinion, That the foresaid Offer of the above named Persons their Subjection and Obedience, to the Authority of this Church, in her Respective Judicatories, contained in the said Shorter Paper; should be Entertained and Accepted of, by the Assembly, and they Received into Communion with this Church, according to their several Capacities. Likeas the above named persons, having Compeared in presence of the Assembly, and Judicially Owned and Adhered unto their said Shorter Paper: And the Assembly having heard the above-written Report, of the Committee of Overtures concerning both the saids Papers; As also the said shorter Paper, Read in their Presence: The General Assembly, after mature De-

liberation, did Unanimously, and without a contrary Vote, Approve the above written Report and Opinion of the Committee of Overtures, in the haill Heads thereof. Which being Intimate to the fore-named Persons, they Acquiesced thereto. Upon all which the following Act was made.

ACT *anent Mr.* Thomas Lining *and Others.*

WHereas Mr. *Thomas Lining* Mr. *Alexander Schields* and Mr. *William Boyd*, have presented to this Assembly two Papers: One containing the Expressions of their *P*urpose and *P*romise, of being subject to the Authority of this Church, as formerly Constituted, and now Restored, in its several Judicatories: The other Offered for the Exoneration of their Consciences. Which *P*aper, containing their Submission and Subjection, did after the exhibition of the other to the Assembly, Become Binding upon them, according to the *P*romise therein made. Likeas, after that other and longer Paper had been Read, before the Committee of Overtures, It was exhibite to and received by the Assembly; together with the Reasons from the said Committee why it should not be *P*ublickly read in full Assembly. Which *R*easons being duely considered, and the said other Paper of Submission and Subjection publickly Read, and Judicially Owned by the forenamed *P*ersons, in presence of the Assembly: The Assembly did conclude by one single Vote, that the foresaid longer Paper should not be Read: And that the above named *P*ersons should be

Received

Received into the Fellowship of this Church, on the Terms of Submission and Subjection contained in the Shorter Paper: And after passing of the said Vote, and that they were gravely Admonished by the Moderator to walk Orderly in time coming, in Opposition to all Schisme and Division; It was declared to them, by the Moderator, in the Name of the Assembly, That the Assembly did receive them into the Fellowship of this Church, to enjoy the priviledges thereof, and Perform the Duties therein, whereof they are, or shall be found Capable. Whereupon, and at their desire, it was ordained that this Act should be made; and an *Extract* thereof given to them in good Form. *Follows the Tenour of the said shorter Paper.*

To the Moderator *and Remanent Members of the General Assembly of the Church of* Scotland.

Right Reverend and Honourable,

"WIth the greatest Earnestness of longing we "have desired, and yet with a Patience per- "haps to excess, we have waited, for an Opportunity, "to bring our unhappy Differences (of which, all "Parties concerned are weary) to a Happy and Holy "close: And for this end to have access to apply our "selves to a full and free General Assembly of this "Church, invested with Authority and Power; *in "foro Divino & Humano*, to Determine and Cognosce "upon them. The want of which an Assembly con- "stitute in that vigour, to which through the Mercy

of

" of God, This Venerable National Synod hath ar-
" rived, hath been the greateſt let and impediment of
" our compoſing theſe Differences, in a way, wherein
" not only we, but all of the ſame Sentiments would
" acquieſce. Now having obtained this much longed,
" and long Prayed for priviledge; We cannot forbear
" any longer, humbly, to Accoſt and Addreſs this Ve-
" nerable Aſſembly, with a free and Ingenuous Repre-
" ſentation of our Minds and Deſires. The ſcope of
" which is, to Repreſent theſe things, which have been
" moſt ſtumbling to us, for the exoneration of our
" Conſciences; and to declare our Deſign, after we
" have exhibited our Teſtimony againſt theſe Courſes,
" which we underſtand to have been Corruptions and
" Defections in this Church, And laid it down at the
" Aſſemblies feet, to be diſpoſed of, as their Wiſdoms
" ſhall think fit: That we ſhall in all Required Sub-
" miſſion, Subject our Selves, our Lives and
" Doctrine, to the Cognizance of the Judicatories of
" this Church, and ſhall equally oppoſe Schiſm and
" Defection, in any Capacity, that we ſhall be found
" Capable of. And here by theſe preſents, we bind and
" oblige our ſelves Faithfully, to live in Union, Com-
" munion and intire Subjection, and due Obedience
" in the Lord, to the Authority of this Church in her
" Reſpective Judicatories: As witneſs our Hands at
" *Edinburgh* the 22 day of *October* 1690.

Thomas Lining.
Alexander Shields.
William Boyd.

Act

VI.

Anent Ministers that observe not the publick Orders of the Church.

Edinburgh 28 of October 1690. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess. 11

THe Assembly Recommends it to Presbyteries, to take Notice of all Ministers, within their Bounds, whether the late Conforming Incumbents, or others, who shall not observe Fasts and Thanksgivings, Indicted by the Church: Or who shall be found Guilty, of any other Irregular Carriage, in administrating the Sacraments in private, or Celebrating Clandestine Marriages, without due Proclamation of Bans: And to censure them accordingly.

VII.

Act approving several Overtures.

Edinburgh 29 October 1690. *Ante Meridiem*, Sess. 12.

THis day the Overtures following were Read in Presence of the Assembly.

1. "For retaining soundness, and unity of Doctrine, *Anent subscribing the Confession of Faith* "It is judged necessary, that all Probationers Licensed "to Preach, all Intrants into the Ministry, and all o-"ther Ministers and Elders Received into Communi-"with us, in Church Government, be obliged, to "Subscribe their Approbation of the Confession of "Faith, approven by former General Assemblies of "this Church, and Ratified in the second Session of

the

" the Current Parliament: And that this be Recom-
" mended to the Diligence of the several Presbyteries,
" and they appointed to Record their Diligence there-
" anent in their respective Registers.

Anent Papists.

2. " That it be Recommended to Presbyteries, to
" take special Notice, what Papists are in their Bounds,
" and that they take pains to Reclaim them, and to
" Advert how their Children are Educat: and if need
" be, to make Application to the Civil Authority con-
" cerning them.

Anent Celebration of Marriage

3. " That the Celebration of Marriage, without
" due Proclamation of Bans, according to Order, three
" several Sabbaths in the respective Parishes, be dis-
" charged: And that it be recommended to Presby-
" teries, to Censure the Contraveeners.

Against profanation of the Sabbath.

4. " That it be recommended to Kirk-Sessions and
" Presbyteries, carefully to put in Execution, the Acts
" of former General Assemblies against Profanation of
" the Lords-day, and particularly by unnecessary Sail-
" ing and Travelling.

Anent Mercats on Saturdays and Mondays.

5. " That Application be made to the Parliament
" for altering all Mercats in Royal Burghs and other
" places, on *Saturdays* and *Mondays*.

The General Assembly after mature Deliberation approves of these Overtures, and Recommends and Appoints accordingly: And ordains the same to be observed, and to have the Force and Strength of an Act and Ordinance of Assembly.

VIII.

Act approving the Associations of Presbyteries.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly, allows and approves of the Ministers of different Presbyteries, their Associating in Presbyteries; ay and while the Vacancies of the saids Presbyteries be filled: And declares them to have the Authority and Power of Presbyteries Respectively: And that notwithstanding, that according to the old Platform, the saids Ministers do reside in the Bounds of different Presbyteries.

IX.

Act against Ministers Removing out of this Church.

Edinburgh 31 October 1690. *Ante Meridiem* Sess. 15

THe General Assembly does hereby appoint, that no Ministers, who have actual standing and absolute Relations, to any Charge in the Church of *Scotland*, shall remove out of the Kingdom, without the Consent of the Respective Judicatories of this Church.

Anent the Administration of the Sacraments.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly considering, that the two Sacraments, that Christ hath appointed under the New Testament, *viz. Baptism and the Lords Supper*, are his Solemn Ordinances, and Seals of the Covenant of Grace (which is held forth in the Preaching of the Gospel) And that in the use of them, the Parties receiving them, are solemnly devoted and engaged to God, before Angels and men; and are solemnly received, as Members of the Church, and do entertain Communion with her: And that by the Authority of this Church, in her former Assemblies, The private use of them hath been condemned: As also, that by allowing the private use of the same, in pretended Cases of Necessity; The Superstitious opinion is nourished, that they are necessary to Salvation, not only as commanded Duties, but as means, without which Salvation cannot be attained. Therefore, The Assembly hereby discharges, the Administration of the Lords Supper, to Sick Persons in their Houses, and all other use of the same, except in the publick Assemblies of the Church. And also doth discharge the Administration of Baptism in private, That is, in any place, or at any time, when the Congregation is not orderly called together, to wait

on

in the Dispensing of the Word. And appoints that this be carefully observed, when and where ever the Lord giveth his people Peace, Liberty and Opportunity for their publick Assemblies. And ordains this present Act to be publickly intimate in all the Churches.

XI.

ACT approving Overtures anent the Irish *Bibles*, &c.

Edinburgh 11 November 1690. *Post Meridiem* Sess. 24.

THis day the Overtures following anent the *Irish Bibles*, *New Testaments* and *Catechisms*, were read in presence of the Assembly.

"1. That a Letter of Thanks be written to these "concerned, whether in this, or our Neighbour Nation, for their Care of, and Liberal Charity towards "the *Highlanders* of this Kingdom, in their so Liberally Contributing, for the saids *Irish Bibles*, &c. "And that Mr. *David Blair* be appointed to write the "said Letter in the Name of this Assembly.

"2. The whole Money so Charitably contributed, "being expended; Therefore, and for making up of "the same, and for Defraying of the necessary Charges "of Transporting the saids Bibles, &c. to *Scotland*; It "is thought most needful, that there be an advance of "One thousand Pounds *Scots*, and that Their Majesties Privy Council be supplicat, for as much of some "Vacant Stipends of Parishes, where the King is Patron, as will make up the said sum for the ends foresaid.

" 3. That it be Recommended to the Kirk Sessions, " Heretors and others concerned in the *Highlands*, to " see the Act of Parliament anent Erecting of Schools " in every Parish, duely Execute, and the *Fonds* esta- " blished by Law, for the same, made effectual.

" 4. That it be Recommended to the Agent for the " Kirk, to Receive the forelaid sum, and to Deburse " the same at the sight of Mr. *John Law* and Mr. *Da-* " *vid Blair*, for the said use: And also to receive the " Books above-mentioned, being three Thousand " *Bibles*, one Thousand *New Testaments*, and three " Thousand *Catechisms*, from *London*.

" 5. That the several Synods, who have *Highland* " *Parishes* in their Bounds, appoint one of their Num- " ber, to receive their proportion, of the saids *Bibles*, " *New Testaments*, and *Catechisms*: And that in order " thereto, the Ministers and Elders having Interest in " the *Highlands*, present in this Assembly, shall meet " and appoint some to receive these *Bibles*, &c. And " proportion the number that each Parish shall have " thereof.

" 6. That it be Recommended to the Ministers, " concerned in the *Highlands*, to dispatch the whole " Paraphrase of the *Irish Psalms*, to the Press. And if " the Principal Copy can be Recovered, to expede the " same; But that any other Copy they have, be Re- " vised by the Synod of *Argyle*, and being approven by " them; That the same be Printed.

The Assembly having considered these Overtures, they approve thereof, and Recommend and Appoint accordingly.

ACT

XII.

Tanent a Solemn National Fast and Humiliation, with the Causes thereof

At Edinburgh, November 12. 1690. *Post Meridiem* Sess. 25.

THE General Assembly, Having taken into their most serious Consideration, the late great and general Defection of this Church and Kingdom; Have thought fit to Appoint a Day of Solemn Humiliation and Fasting, for Confession of Sins, and making Supplication to Our Gracious GOD, to Forgive and Remove the guilt thereof: In order whereunto, they have Ordained the Confession of Sins, and Causes of Fasting following, to be duely Intimate and Published; Recommending it most earnestly to all persons, both Ministers and Others, That every One of us may not only search and try our own Hearts and Wayes, and stir up Our selves to seek the Lord; But also in our Stations, and as we have access, Deal with one another, in all Love and Tenderness, to prepare for so great and necessary a Duty, that we may find mercy in God's sight, and He may be graciously Reconciled to our Land in the Lord Jesus, and take delight to dwell among us.

Although our gracious God hath of late, for His own Name sake wrought great and wonderful things, for *Britain* and *Ireland*, and for this Church and Nation in particular; Yet the Inhabitants thereof have cause to remember their own evil wayes, and to loath themselves in their own sight for their Iniquities. Alas!

Alas! We and our Fathers, our Princes, our Pastors and People of all Ranks have sinned, and have been under great Transgression to this day: For though our gracious God shewed early kindness to this Land, in sending the Gospel among us, and afterward in our Reformation from Popish Superstition and Idolatry; and IT had the Honour, beyond many Nations of being after our first Reformation, Solemnly devoted unto God, both Prince and People; yet we have dealt treacherously with the Lord, and been unstedfast in His Covenant, and have not walked suitably to our Mercies received from Him, nor obligations to Him. Through the mercy of God this Church had attained to a great purity of Doctrine, Worship and Government, but this was not accompanied with suitable personal Reformation, neither was our Fruit answerable to the pains taken on us by Word and Work; We had much Gospel-preaching, but too little Gospel-practice too many went on in open wickedness, and some had but a form of Godliness, denying the power thereof: Many also who had the Grace of God in truth fell from their first love, and fell under sad languishings and decays; and when for our sins the Anger of the Lord had divided us, and we were brought under the feet of strangers, and many of our brethren killed, and others taken captive and sold as slaves; yet we sinned still, and after we were freed from the yoak of strangers, instead of returning to the Lord, and being led to Repentance by His Goodness, the Land made open Defection from the good ways of the Lord: Many behaved as if they had been delivered to work abomination, the flood-

gates

ces of Impiety were opened, and a deluge of wicked-
ſe did overſpread the Land. Who can without grief
d ſhame remember the ſhameful debauchery and
unkenneſs that then was? And this accompanied
h horrid and hellish curſing and ſwearing, and fol-
ved with frequent Filthineſs, Adulteries and other
ominations, and the Reprover was hated, and he
t departed from Iniquity made himſelf a Reproach
Prey. And when by theſe, and ſuch like corrupt
ctices, mens Conſciences were debauched, they pro-
ded to ſacrifice the Intereſt of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt,
priviledges of his Church to the luſts and will of
n; The Supremacy was advanced in ſuch a way,
to ſuch an height, as never any Chriſtian Church
nowledged; The Government of the Church was
ered, and Prelacie (which hath been always griev-
to this Nation) introduced, without the Churches
ſent, and contrary to the ſtanding Acts of our Na-
nal Aſſemblies, both which the preſent Parliament
h (bleſſed be God) lately found; And yet never-
eleſs, of the then ſtanding Miniſtry of *Scotland*, many
ſuddenly and readily comply with that alteration of
Government, ſome out of Pride and Covetouſneſs,
Man-pleaſing, ſome through infirmity or weakneſs,
fear of Man, and want of Courage and Zeal for God;
any faithful Miniſters were thereupon caſt out, and
any Inſufficient and Scandalous Men thruſt in on
eir Charges, and many Families ruined, becauſe they
would not own them as their Paſtors.

And alas! It is undenyable, there hath been under
the late Prelacie, a great decay of Piety, ſo that it was
enough

enough to make a man be nicknam'd a Phanatick, if he did not run to the same excess of Riot with others.

And should it not be lamented, for it cannot be denied, that there hath been in some a dreadful Atheistick Boldness against God, some have disputed the Beeing of GOD, and His Providence, the Divine Authority of the Scriptures, the Life to come, and Immortality of the Soul, yea and scoffed at these things.

There hath been also an Horrid Prophanation of the Holy and Dreadful Name of GOD, by cursing and swearing: Ah! there hath been so much Swearing and Forswearing amongst us, that no Nation under Heaven hath been more guilty in this than we; some by swearing rashly or ignorantly, some falsly, by breaking their Oaths. And imposing and taking ungodly unlawful Oaths and Bonds, whereby the Consciences of many have been polluted and seared, and many ruined and oppressed for refusing and not taking them.

There hath also been a great neglect of the worship of God, too much in publick, but especially in Families and in secret.

The wonted care of Religious sanctifying the Lord's Day is gone, and in many places the Sabbath hath been and is shamefully prophaned.

The Land also hath been, full of bloody Crimes, and Cities full of Violence, and much innocent Blood shed, so that Blood touched Blood, yea, *Sodoms* sins have abounded amongst us. Pride, fulness of Bread, Idleness, Vanities of Apparel, and shameful sensuality filled the Land.

And Alas! how great hath been the Cry of Oppression

and Unrighteousnes, Iniquity hath been estab-
bed by a Law, there hath been a great perverting
Justice, by making and executing unrighteous Sta-
es and Acts, and sad persecutions of many for
eir Conscience towards God.

It is also matter of Lamentation, that under this
eat Defection, there hath been too general a fainting
t only amongst Professours of the Gospel, but also
iongst Ministers; yea, even amongst such, who in
e main things did endeavour to maintain their Inte-
ity, in not giving zealonable and necessary Testimo-
against the Defections and Evils of the Time, and
eping a due distance from them, and some on the
her hand managed their Zeal with too little Discreti-
and Meekness.

It is also matter of Humiliation, that when Differen-
s fell out amongst these, who did own Truth, and bear
itness against the Course of Defection, they were
t managed with due Charity and Love, but with too
uch heat and bitterness, injurious Reflections used
ainst Pious and Worthy men on all hands, and scan-
lous Divisions occasioned, and the Succeis of the
ospel greatly obstructed thereby, and some danger-
us Principles drunk in: And after all this, there were
ameful advances towards Popery, the abomination
the Mass was set up in many places, and Popish
chools erected, and severals fell to Idolatry.

And though the Lord hath put a stop to the Course
Defection, and of his great mercy given us some
reviving from our Bondage; yet we have sad cause to
egrate and bemoan, that few have a due sense of our

mercy, or walk answerable thereto; Few are turned to the Lord in truth, but the wicked go on to do wickedly. And there is found amongst us to this day, shameful ingratitude for our mercies, Horrid impenitency under our sins, yea, even among those, who stand most up for the Defence of the Truth: And amongst many in our Armies, there is woful Prophanness and Debauchery. And though we profess to acknowledge, there can be no Pardon of Sins, no Peace and Reconciliation with God, but by the Blood of Jesus Christ; Yet few know Him, or see the Necessity and Excellency of the Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; few see their need of him, or esteem, desire, or receive him as he is offered in the Gospel; Few are acquainted with Faith in Jesus Christ, and living by Faith on Him, as made of the Father unto us, wildom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption; And few walk as becometh the Gospel, to imitate our Holy Lord in Humility, Meekness, Self-denial, Heavenly mindedness, Zeal for GOD, and Charity towards Men: But as there is even untill now, a great contempt of the Gospel, a great Barrenness under it; So a deep Security under our sin and Danger, a great want of Piety toward God, and Love towards Men, with woful Selfishness, every one seeking their own things, few the things of Christ, or the publick Good, or one anothers welfare: And finally, the most part more ready to Censure the sins of others, than to Repent of their own.

Our Iniquities are increased over our Heads, and our Trespasses are grown up unto the Heavens, they are many in number, and hainous in their nature, and grievously aggravated, as having been contrary to

great

reat Light and Love, under signal Mercies and Judgments, after Confession and Supplication, and notwithstanding of our *Profession*, Promises and solemn Vowing, and Covenanting with God to the contrary.

Have we not then sad cause of deep Sorrow and Humiliation? And may we not fear, if we do not repent, nd turn from the evil of our wayes, and return to the Lord with all our hearts, that he return to do us evil, fter He hath done us good, and be angry with us, ntil he hath consumed us?

Let us therefore humble our selves by fasting and raying, let us search out our sins, and consider ur wayes, and confess these, and other our sins, with orrow and Detestation; Let us Turn unto the Lord ith fasting and weeping, and with mourning; Let firmly resolve and sincerely Engage to amend our ayes and doings, and return unto the Lord our God, ith all our hearts, and earnestly pray, that for the lood of the Lamb of God, our sins may be forgiven, nd our back slidings healed, and we may yet become Righteous Nation, keeping the Truth, that Religin and Righteousness may flourish, and Love and harity abound, and all the Lords People may be of e mind in the *Lord*: And in order to all these, that e word of the Lord may have free course, and be lorified, and that the Preaching of the Word, and ispensing of the Sacraments, may be accompanied ith the wonted *Presence*, Power and Blessing of the Spirit of the Lord, That the Lord would *Preserve* and less our gracious *King* and *Queen*, *William* and *Mary*, nd establish their Throne by Righteousness and Religion, and grant to these Nations, Peace and Truth

to-

together; And for that End, bless and prosper His Majesties Councils, and Forces by Sea and Land, and these of the Princes and States his Allies, for God and his Truth; That inferior Rulers may Rule in the fear of God, and Judges be cloathed with Righteousness, and that many faithful Labourers may be sent out into the Lord's Vineyard, and they who are sent, may find mercy to be Faithful, and be blest with Success; That Families may be as little Churches of Christ, and that the Lord would pour out His Spirit on all Ranks of People, that they may be Holy in all manner of Conversation, and God may delight to dwell amongst us and to do us good.

And while we pray for our selves, let us not forget our Brethren in Foreign Churches, with whom, alas we had too little Sympathy; Nay let us pray, that all the Ends of the Earth, may see the Salvation of God; And that he would bring His ancient people of the *Jews* to the Acknowledgment of Jesus Christ; And that he would hasten the Ruine of Romish Babylon, and advance the Reformation in Christendome, and preserve and bless the Reformed Churches; That he would pitie His oppressed People, the *French Protestants*, and gather them out of all places, whither they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day; And that He would be the Defence, Strength and Salvation of any of His People, who are in War or Danger by Infidel or Popish adversaries, in *Europe* or *America*: And in particular, that the Lord would be Gracious to *Ireland*, and sanctifie to His People there, both their distress and Deliverance, and perfect what concerneth them

hem, that he would Convert the Natives there to the Truth, Reduce that Land to Peace; And appoint Salvation for Walls and Bulwarks to *Britain*

For all these Causes and Reasons, The General Assembly hath Appointed the Second Thursday of *January* next, to be Observed in all the Congregations of this Church and Nation, as a day of Solemn Fasting and Humiliation, and *Prayer*; *Beseeching* and Obliging all, both Pastors and People, of all Ranks to be sincere and serious, in Humiliation and Supplication, and universal Reformation, as they would wish to find mercy of the Lord and have deserved wrath averted, and would obtain the Blessing of the Lord upon themselves and Posterity after them; And that the Lord may delight in us, and our Land may be as Married to Him. And Ordains all Ministers, either in Kirks or Meeting houses, to Read this present Act publickly from the Pulpit, a Sabbath or two before the said Day of Humiliation: and that the several Presbyteries take care, that it be carefully observed in their Respective bounds. And where, in regard of Vacancies, the Day hereby appointed, cannot be observed; The Assembly appoints the said Humiliation to be kept some other Day with the first convenient opportunity. And Appoints the Commission for Visitation, to apply to the Council for their Civil Sanction to the Observation thereof.

Act

XIII.

Acts anent Sentences past against Ministers from the Year 1650. &c.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly does hereby declare, all Sentences, past against any Ministers *Hinc Inde*, by any Church Judicatory, upon the Account of the late Differences among Presbyterians, from the Year 1650. Till the Re-introduction of Prelacy, to be of themselves void and null, to all Effects and Intents. And Siclike the General Assembly hereby Recommends, to the Respective Presbyteries, to take care, that such of these Ministers, as are not otherways disposed of by the Church, Return to the exercise of their Ministry, in their Respective Congregations. And also hereby Recommends to the Civil Magistrate, that the saids Ministers may have the Legal Maintainances and Stipends where they served.

The

XIV.

The Assemblies Letter to His Majesty.

Edinburgh 13 of November 1690. *Post Meridiem.* Sess. 26.

May it please Your Majesty.

THe Happiness we have had by Your Majesties influence, as an Instrument in the Hand of God, towards us for good, and the Countenance You have given us in Holding this National Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, Doth Encourage us to make Application again to Your Majesty; That as in our Answer to Your Gracious Letter direct to us in the Entrance of this Assembly, we Engaged to Your Majesty that in all things that should come before us, we would carry with that Calmnes and Moderation, which becometh the Ministers of the Gospel of Peace, and which Your Majesty did so effectually Recommend to us; So now in the Close of this our Assembly, we presume to acquaint Your Majesty, That through the good Hand of God upon us, we have in a great measure performed accordingly: Having applied our selves, mostly and especially, to what concerned this whole Church, and endeavoured by all means Ecclesiastical, and proper for us, to promote the Good thereof, together with the Quiet of the Kingdom, and Your Majesties Satisfaction and Contentment. And God hath been pleased to Bless our Endeavours, in our Receiving to the Unity and Order of this Church, some who had withdrawn, and now have joyned with us, and promised Subjection: And in providing for the Propagation of Religi-

on,

on, and the Knowledge of God, in the most Barbarous places of the *Highlands*, which may be the surest way of Reducing these people also unto Your Majesties Obedience: And especially in Regulating the Ministers of this Church, after so great Revolutions and Alterations: For we have according to the use and practice of this Church, ever since the first Reformation from Popery, appointed Visitations both for the Southern and Northern parts of this Kingdom, Consisting of the Gravest and most Experienced Ministers and Elders: To whom we have given Instructions about the late Conformists, that none of them shall be Removed from their Places, but such as are either Insufficient, or Scandalous, or Erroneous, or Supinely Negligent: And that these of them be admitted to Ministerial Communion with us, who upon due Trial, and in a Competent Time for that Trial, shall be found to be Orthodox in Doctrine, of Competent Abilities, of a Godly, Peaceable, and Loyal Conversation, and who shall be judged Faithfull to God and to the Government: And who shall likewayes Promise to own, Submit unto, and Concurre with it. We have also taken Care, that all persons, who shall be found to have received wrong, in any Inferior Judicatory of this Church, shall be duly Redressed: Other things which are not of so Universal a Concern, we have delayed till the next General Assembly. This Account Great SIR, we look upon our selves as Obliged to give unto Your Majesty, for that great Goodness, You have been pleased to express, in giving such Countenance to this Assembly, and in appointing such Commis-

missioner to Represent Your Royal Person, who hath been in all his Conduct in this Affair, most acceptable unto us. That God may Bless Your Majesty, and our most Gracious Queen, with all Blessings, which concern both this Life, and the Life to come, is the earnest Prayer of.

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesties most Faithful,

Most Humble and most Obedient,

Subjects and Servants,

Subscribed in Name, and at the Appointment of the General Assembly, by

HU. KENNEDIE. Moderator.

XV.

Instructions to the Commissions for Visitations on the South and North sides of Tay.

Eadem Sessione.

THe following Instructions to the Commission for Visitations on this side of *Tay*, were Read in presence of the Assembly.

" 1. That there be appointed by the Assembly, a " Delegate number of the most experienced Ministers

" and Elders: This number to be Forty Ministers, " and Twenty Ruling Elders, fifteen of them to a " Quorum, ten of these being alwayes Ministers: And " that they at their first Session, Choose their Mode- " rator and Clerk: And for the Sub-committe be- " twixt the Quarterly Meetings, nine to be the Quo- " rum, six of these being alwayes Ministers.

" 2. That the Work of this Commission for Visi- " tations be, to take to their Cognizance all Refe- " rences, and Appeals, and other things, which be- " ing stated before this Assembly, shall by them be spe- " cially Referred to the said Commission, to determine " the same.

" That the Commission give their Opinion to all " Presbyteries and Synods, who shall apply to them " for the same, in difficult Cases: and though Presby- " teries shall not apply, yet if the Commission shall " be informed of any Precipitant, or unwarrantable " procedure of Presbyteries, in Processes, which " may prove of ill Consequence to the Church, The " Commission shall interpose their Advice, to such " Presbyteries, to sist such procedure, till either the " Synod, or next General Assembly take Cognizance " of it; if the said Commission shall not find a present " fit Expedient, to direct them, for bringing the " matter sooner to a Right Conclusion.

" 4. That in discussing References, Appeals and " Bills, They take care to purge out all, who upon " due Tryal, shall be found to be Insufficient, su- " pinely Negligent, Scandalous or Erroneous.

" 5. That this Commission shall have Power of

" Vi-

Visiting any Ministers within the Bounds of any Presbyteries, on this side of the Waters of Tay, as they shall find need: And that this Power Reach Presbyterians as well as others.

" 6. That they shall be Careful, that none shall be admitted by them to Ministerial Communion, or to a share of the Government; but such as upon due Tryal (for which the Commission is to take a competent time) shall be found to be Orthodox in their Doctrine, of Competent Abilities, having a Pious, Godly, *Loyal* and *Peaceable* Conversation, as becometh a *Minister* of the Gospel, of an Edifying Gift, and whom the Commission shall have ground to believe, will be True and Faithful to God and the Government, and diligent in their Ministerial Duties. And that all who shall be admitted to the Ministry, or shall be received to a share in the Government, shall be obliged to Own and Subscribe the *Confession of Faith*, and profess their Submission to, and willingness to Joyn and Concur with the *Presbyterian* Church-Government.

" 7. That they be very Cautious of receiving Informations, against the late Conformists, and that they proceed in the matter of Censure, very Deliberatly, so as none may have just cause to complain of their Rigiditie: Yet so as to omit no means of Information. And that they shall not proceed to censure, but upon Relevant Libels and sufficient Probation.

" 8. That this Commission do not take on them, to meddle with any thing, not expressed in their Com-

" mission; And that it be declared, that this Com-
" mission is only given, *ad hunc effectum & pro præsenti*
" *Ecclesiæ statu.*

" 9. That this commission be in all their actings,
" Countable to, and Censurable by the next Ensuing
" General Assembly.

" 10. That this commission continue till the first of
" *November* next: and in case the General Assembly
" Interveen; Then this Commission is to Terminate
" at the meetting of the said Assembly.

The General Assembly approves these Instructions for the said Commission for Visitations on the South-side of *Tay*: And ordains the same also to serve for the Visitors that are to be appointed for the North.

XVI.

Commission for Visitations on the South side of Tay.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly Considering, that there are many Important and weighty Affairs, Processes, Appeals and References, Tabled before this Assembly, which the Assembly could not overtake, for want of time to consider them naturely; Does therefore Nominate and Authorize a Commission of Ministers and Elders, for Visitation of the whole Presbyteries, on the South-side of *Tay*, *viz.* Mr. *Hugh Kennedy*, Mr. *John Veitch*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *Gabriel Semple*. Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, Mr. *James Kirtoun*, Mr. *William Areskyne*, Mr. *William*

Mr. *William Weir*, Mr. *William Crichtoun*, Mr. *John Anderson* of *Perth*, Mr. *Alexander Petcairn*, Mr. *Richard Howison*, Mr. *George Campbel*, Mr. *John Lawrie*, Mr. *Archibald Hamiltoun*, Mr. *Patrick Peatock*, Mr. *John Spalding*, Mr. *Michael Bruce*, Mr. *Gabriel Cuningham*, Mr. *Patrick Warner*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, Mr. *John Hutcheson*, Mr. *William Eccles*, Mr. *James Vetch*, Mr. *Patrick Sympson*, Mr. *Matthew Crawford*, Mr. *William Legat*, Mr. *Neil Gillies*, Mr. *Thomas Forrester*, Mr. *Andrew Mortoun*, Mr. *Robert Duncanson*, Mr. *John Bannatyne*, Mr. *William Ker*, Mr. *William Vilant*, Mr. *Robert Bale*, Mr. *James Frazer*, Mr. *George Meldrum* at *Kilmuning*, Mr. *David Blair*; Mr. *Samuel Nairn*, Mr. *Edward Jamieson*, Mr. *James Rymer* Ministers: and the Earl of *Crawford*, the Earl of *Sutherland*, the Viscount of *Arbuthnet*, the Lord *Halcraig*, the Lord *Aberuchil*, the Laird of *Ormistoun*, Sir *John Hall* Provest of *Edinburgh*, Sir *John Riddel*, the Laird of *Greenknows*, *Archibald Muir* late Baylie of *Edinburgh*, *James Mclurgh* Dean of Gild, *George Stirling* Deacon Conveener, the Laird of *Naughtoun*, the Laird of *Meggans*, the Lard of *Leuchat*, Sir *Thomas Stewart*, the Laird of *Glanderstoun*, the Laird of *Lamingtonn*, Provest *Muir* of *Air*, and the Laird of *Grange Hamiltoun* Ruling Elders: To meet for their first Diet at *Edinburgh* the fourteenth day of *November* Instant, Fifteen of them being a *Quorum*, whereof Ten are to be always Ministers: And of their Sub-Committee in the Interval of their Quarterly Meetings, Nine to be a *Quorum*, Six of these being always Ministers, who only are to Rippen and prepare Matters for the Quarterly Meetings. And their next

Quarterly Meeting to be at *Edinburgh* the Third *Wednesday* of *January* thereafter. And their next Quarterly Meeting to be on the Third *Wednesday* of *April*. And if afterwards the said Commission shall think fit, to appoint other Quarterly Meetings, they may do as they see Expedient. With full Power to them and their Sub-Commission foresaid, to give Warrand for Citing Parties upon Fifteen free dayes. And the said Commission, being only appointed, *Ad hunc effectum & pro præsenti Ecclesiæ Statu*, Therefore, The Assembly Recommends particularly to the said Commission, to take Cognizance of, and finally determine in the particulars following, specially Committed and Referred to them by this Assembly, *viz.* The Purging and Planting of the City and Presbytery of *Edinburgh*: The Transportation of Mr. *Robert Wylly* to *Hamiltoun*: The Process of the Heretors and People of *Peebles*: The Processes of Mr. *Thomas Wood* at *Dunbar*, of Mr. *Robert Spotswood* at *Abbotsrule*, Mr. *John Bowes* at *Abbotshall*, Mr. *Patrick Lyon* at *Kinghorn*, Mr. *Symon Cowpar* at *Dumfermling*, Mr. *William Crawford* at *Lady-Kirk*, Mr. *James Orr* at *Huttoun*, Mr. *Adam Peacock* at *Morhettle*, Mr. *Daniel Urquhart* at *Clackmannan*, Mr. *George Monro* at *Dollar*, Mr. *George Shaw* at *Logie*, Mr. *Alexander Ireland* at *Fossoway* and *Tilliboal*, Mr. *Robert Sharp* at *Muckart*, Mr. *James Grahame* at *Dumfermling*, Mr. *George Gray* at *Beath*, Mr. *John Monro* at *Stirling*, and Mr. *John Skinner* at *Bathkenner*: The Petition of the Magistrates of *Perth*, and Reference anent Mr. *John Anderson* there: The Processes of Mr. *William Alison* at *Kilbocho*, and Mr. *James Cowpar* at *Humbie*: Some References of the

Synod

Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdial* to the Assembly, *viz.* One anent Doctor *Canaries*, and another anent Mr. *Kirktoun* and Mr. *Jameson's* returning to their Charges, or else to Dimit; And a third anent Mr. *William Crawfurd* Deposed, to procure him some Lively hood, because of his Age and Infirmity, and some others given in to the Clerk therewith from the said Synod: The Affair anent Mr. *Duncan Campbel* and the Parishes of *Dinnoon* and *Kilmunn*: The Process of Mr. *Robert Glasford* at *Auchteraeren*: The Reference from the Presbyterie of *Stirling*, for advice anent Mr. *Patrick Cowpar*: The Petitions of Mr *William Hamiltoun* and *Mr. Hugh Wisbet*: The Petition of Mr. *Alexander Strang*, anent his Clerks Fies. This Commission is also to Correspond with the State, anent Fasts and Thanksgivings, and their Causes, if the Occasions thereof fall out during the time of their sitting: Also to take the Monitory paper to consideration, and see what use is to be made of it: To consider what Acts of Assembly are fit to be Printed together, and order the same. To consider the form of process, being first Revised by the *Lord Aberuthil* and the *Lord Halcraig*. And to apply to the Privy Council for their Civil Sanction to the observation of the Fast. And this Commission is to walk in all things, according to the particular Instructions given unto them by this Assembly. And in all their Actings they shall be countable to and Censurable by the next General Assembly. And this Commission to Continue till the first of November next, or the diet, that shall be appointed for the next General Assembly.

XVII.

XVII.

Commission for Visitations on the North side of Tay.

Eadem Sessione.

THe General Assembly taking to their Consideration the necessity of Purging and Planting of the Churches on the North side of *Tay*, do by their Ecclesiastical Authority, Nominat, Appoint and Authorize their Reverend Brethren Mr. *Hugh Kennedy*, Mr. *John Law*, Mr. *William Crichtoun*, Mr. *Edward Jamesson*, Mr. *Robert Rule*, Mr. *James Rymer*, Mr. *James Frazer*, Mr. *Alexander Forbes*, Mr. *John Anderson* at *Perth*, Mr. *George Meldrum* at *Kilwining*, Mr. *Thomas Ramsay*, Mr. *Andrew Bowie*, Mr. *Robert Young*, Mr. *William Legat*, and Mr. *William Mackie*, Ministers: And the Lord Viscount of *Arbuthnet*, the Laird of *Meggat*, the Laird of *Naughtoun*, the Laird of *Lenquhas*, and the Laird of *Greenknowis*, Ruling Elders: To joyn with the Ministers and Elders in the North after-mentioned, *Viz.* Mr. *John Stewart*, Mr. *James Urquhart*, Mr. *Alexander Dumbar*, Mr. *Alexander Frazer*, Mr. *Thomas Hogg*, Mr. *Hugh Henryson*, Mr. *William Mackay*, Mr. *Walter Dinnoon*, Mr. *George Meldrum* of *Glass*, Mr. *Arthur Mitchel*, Mr. *William Ramsay*, Mr. *Francis Melvil*, and Mr. *John Mcculloch*, Ministers: together with the Earle of *Sutherland*, the Laird of *Brodie*, the Laird of *Grant*, the Laird of *Grange Dumbar*, the Laird

Laird of *Eight*, the Laird of *Culloden*, the Laird of *Dalfolly*, the Laird of *Parkhay*, Sir *John Monro*, Sir *George Monro*, Sir *Robert Gordon* of *Embo*, *David Frazer* of *Maine*, Mr. *John Campbel* of *Moy*, *Hector Monro* of *Drummond*, *Alexander Duff* of
and *Robert Martyne* of *Burnbrae*, Ruling Elders, [illegible] b ea Commission for Visiting the whole Presbyteries [illegible] the North-side of the Water of *Tay*, In Planting Va[illegible] Churches Constituting Elderships in Co[illegible]s, Trying & Purging out of Insufficient, Ne[illegible]an-dalous and Erroneous *Ministers*, by due [illegible] of Eccle-siastical *Process* and Censures, accordi[illegible] the *Particu-lar* Instructions given them thereanent, and for that effect, to have their first Dyet of meeting, at *Aberdeen*, the Second *Wednesday* of *March* next, and thereafter to appoint their own Dyets and Places of meeting, as they see Expedient, with full Power to them, or their *Quorum* being seven Ministers and three Ruling Elders, to Issue out Warrants for Citing of Parties upon fifteen Free dayes, to Cognosce, Determine and finally de-cide, in planting of Vacant Churches, Constituting Elderships, and Trying and Purging out, all Insuf-ficient, Negligent, Scandalous and Erroneous Mini-sters, conforme to the particular Instructions given them thereanent. They being alwayes Countable to, and Censurable by the next General Assembly of this Church: And this Commission to continue till the first of *November* next, or the Dyet that shall be ap-pointed for the next General Assembly.

XVIII.

Commission for Mr. Gilbert Rule and Mr. David Blair, ... upon His Majesty anent the Affairs of this Church.

Eadem Sessione.

The General Assembly judging it Expedient, to ... of their Number to *London*, to attend his Majesty anent the Affairs of this Church; Does therefore Nominate and Appoint their Reverend Brethren, *Mr. Gilbert Rule*, one of the Ministers of the City of *Edinburgh*, and Principal of the Colledge thereof, and Mr. *David Blair* another of the Ministers of the said City; with all convenient speed to Repair to *London*, to attend His Majesty for the end foresaid: And Refers the Instructions to be given them, and what other things Concern their Journey, to the Commission for Visitations on the South side of *Tay* appointed by this Assembly.

This Assembly being Dissolved, and the next General Assemly appointed to be held at *Edinburgh* the first day of *November* next to come; The Members were dismissed with Prayer, Singing of the 133 Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.

Collected, Visied and Extracted from the Records of the said Assembly by Me
JOHN SPALDING *Cls. Syn: National.*

FINIS.

INDEX of the Unprinted Acts, &c. Of the General Assembly, 1690.

ELection of Mr. *Hugh Kennedy* to be Moderator. Sess. 1.

Continuation of Mr. *John Spalding*, Clerk to the late General Meeting, to be Clerk to this Assembly for the time. *Ibid.*

Committee for Revising the Commissions of the Members of this Assembly, *Ibid.*

Committee for Overtures, References, and Appeals, Sess. 2.

Committee for Synod-Books, and for Bills. *Ibid.*

Committee for Supplying the Kirks of *Edinburgh*, during this Assembly. *Ibid.*

Reference anent the *Purging* and Planting of the City and *Presbytery* of *Edinburgh*, to the Commission to be appointed for Visitations, Sess. 5.

Declaration by the *Moderator*, that this Assembly would Depose no Incumbents, simply for their Judgment, anent the Government of the Church, nor urge Re-ordination upon them, Sess. 6.

The Opinion of the Assembly, declining to send any *Ministers* to *Northumberland*, upon a *Petition* of some in that Country, in respect these People do not belong to this Church. Sess. 8.

Act discharging *Mr. Andrew Sliry* the exercise of the *Ministry*, at *Falkirk*, and appointing the Presbytery of *Linlithgow* to declare the said Kirk Vacant: As also discharging him the exercise of the *Ministry*, within the bounds of that *Presbytery*, without the said Presbyteries allowance. Sess. 9.

Act anent the call given to Mr. *Robert Anderſon* by the Pariſh of *Leuquhars*. *Ibid.*

Act declaring Mr. *Arthur Mitchell* Rightful Mininſter at *Turreff* Seſſ. 10.

Act Tranſporting Mr. *George Campbel*, to the Profeſſion of Divinity in the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, and to the Miniſtrie in that City Seſſ. 11.

Act appointing ſome Miniſters to Repair to *Dundie*, Seſſ. 12.

Act tranſporting Mr. *Gabriel Semple* to *Jedburgh*. *Ibid.*

Act anent Letters to ſeveral Miniſters and Preachers now abroad, belonging to this Church, for their Returning Home. *Seſſ.* 13.

Act Reviving the Overtures of the Aſſembly. 1643 *Seſſ.* 2. Anent the ordering of the Aſſembly Houſe *Ibid.*

Act againſt Mr. *John Mckenzie*, declaring the Kirk of *Kirkliſtoun* Vacant, with a Recommendation to the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, to ſee the ſame planted. *Ibid*

Overtures anent planting of the North. *Seſſ.* 14.

Act appointing ſome Miniſters to repair to *Angus*, with a Recommendation to the privy Council thereanent. *Ibid.*

Continuation of Mr, *John Spalding*, to be Clerk of this Aſſembly, till farther Conſideration. Seſſ. 15.

Act againſt Mr, *John Park* late Incumbent at *Carriden*, finding that he had fallen from his appeal, from the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, by his non compearance *Ibid.*

Election of *John Blair* to be Agent for this Church *Seſſ.* 16.

Remit

Remit Mr. *Alexander Hesiet* at *Dalkeith* to the Synod of *Lothian*. Sess. 17.

Act Ratifying the Sentence of deposition, past by the Presbytery of *Stirling* against Mr. *James Forsyth* Elder late Incumbent at *St. Ninians*, for Celebrating an Incestuous Marriage. Sess. 18.

Act in favours of Mr. *James Coupar* Incumbent at *Humbie*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commission of Parliament for Plantation of Kirks &c. in favours of the Synod of *Argyl*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission to be appointed for Visitations on the South side of Tay, in favours of the Town of *Perth*, with an Approbation of the Presbytries procedure, in constituting a Kirk Session there. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commission of Parliament for Plantation of Kirks. &c. In Favours of the Town of *Drumfries*. *Ibid.*

Election of *George Mosman* to be Printer to the Assemly, *Sess.* 21.

Recommendation to his Majesty, the Parliament, and Commission for plantation of Kirks &c. in favours, of the Laird and Lady *Hoptoun* for Erecting the Lead Mynes in a Parish. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Presbytery of *Dumbartan* and Synod of *Glasgow*, in favours of Mr. *Thomas Mitchell*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commission for plantation of Kirks &c For Re-erecting the Kirk and Parish of *New-Cumnock*. *Ibid.*

Reference in favours of the Burgh and Parish of *Stanraver*, and the Parishes of *Anwith* and *Borgh*, to the several Presbyteries, for applying to the Meetings in *Ireland*, to louse the *Irish* Ministers now serving in these Parishes; to the end they may continue their setled Ministers, Sess. 22.

Reference to the Presbytery of *Hamiltoun* and *Lanerk*, in Favours of Mr. *Samuel Mowat*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Commission for plantation of Kirks &c. For Re-erecting the Kirk of *Robertoun*. *Ibid.*

Act Impowering the Ministers and Elders in the Notth who are to joyn with the Visitation for that Countrey, to take Informations, and to cause Cite Parties and witnesses against the first Diet of the said Visitation. Sess. 24.

Remit Mr. *Forsyth* Younger to the Presbytery of *Stirling*. *Ibid.*

The Opinion of the Assembly declining to meddle in the Petiti-

on

on of the Lord and Lady *Crichtoun*, as being a matter Civil, and ſo not comepetent to the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Reference in Favours of the Parish of *Glenluce* to the Presbytery of the bounds, to apply for louſing ſome *Irish* Miniſters, as in the caſe of the Burgh of *Stranraver*. &c. *Ibid.*

The Opinion of the Aſſembly declining to meddle in a Petition of the Heretors of *Collingroun*, as being a matter Civil and Incompetent to them. Seſſ. 25.

Recommendation in Favours of *George Moſman* anent ſome Books. *Ibid.*

Act appointing Mr. *Gilbert Rule*, to Writt an anſwer to ſome Pamphlets. *Ibid.*

Act for ſupplying the Charges of Miniſters appointed for Viſitations in the North. *Ibid.*

Act appointing ſome Miniſters to Repair to the bouuds of the Presbyteries of *Lochmaban Middlebee*. &c. *Ibid.*

Act declaring the Sentence of Depoſition and Excommunication paſt by the late pretended Biſhop of *Dumblane*, againſt Mr. *William Spence* to be void and Null. *Ibid.*

Letter from the Aſſembly to the Earle of *Melvill* Lord *Secretary* of State for *Scotland*. Seſſ. 26.

Act appointing ſome Miniſters and Probationers to Repair to the North. *Ibid.*

Act appointing ſome Miniſters to the like effect with the former. *Ibid.*

Committee for Reviſing the Acts of Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the privy Council, for ſome Charity to Mr. *William Cameron* one of the late Conformiſts, *Ibid.*

Recommendation to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and the Synod of *Louthian* and *Fife*, in Favours of *Mary Areſkyne*. *Ibid.*

Act appointing the Synod Books to be ſent in to the next General Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

FINIS.

e most part of the following Acts viz. These from the year, 1638 to 1649, having been Printed abroad some years ago, where the benefite of an *English* Corrector could not be had, several misprintings haven fallen in. The most material whereof and such as may wrong the sense, the Reader is desired to correct as follows.

Age 2. line 36. *For: are no leafe. r no leafe*, p. 5. l. 8. f. *Robert*, r, *Thomas* p. 7. l. [illegible]. r, *the*, p. 17. l. 19, r, *conforme to the*. p. 20. l. 24, r, *at length*, 22, l. 3. r, *deposed*, l. 7. r, *whither*, p. 24. l. 20. r, *of this*, p. 26, l 25. r, *after-* [illegible]. *The* p. 29, l. 3. r. *such*, p. 40, l. 14. r. *as a rite* p. 43, l. 25, r. *Assembly*, 47, l. 22. r, *tacks*. p. 49. l. 4, r, *the pain*, *Ib*. l. 29. r, *Jesuits there be in*, l. r *to proceed*, l. 35. r, *and that Children*, p. 51. l. 8. r *put in*, p. 57, l. 9. r, 2. p. 58, l. 16, r. *the Assembly*, p. 59, l. 7. r *that it is*, p. 63, l. 12, r *which* l. 33. r *contrair*, l. ult. r, *Act*, p. 64, l. 17. r, *occasion and*. l. 22, r *Presbitery*, 65. l. 1. r, 6. r. 26, l. 26. r, *comfort and*, p. 70. l. *penult*, r. *diadem*, p. 75, 1 r, *constitutes*, l. 22, r, *Function*, p. 79. l. 15. r, *fish as* p. 83. l. 10, r, *to the* [illegible], l. 35, r *of Counsel*, p. 85. l. 19. r, *his Majesties most*. p. 88 l 7, *dele and* 97. l 14 and 19. r, *dimission*. p. 99, l 28 r *selves*. *Upon*. p 100, l 4 r *whi-* r. l 31 r *of true*, p 101, l 22 r *the*, p 104. l. 4, r *the* l. 5, r *whereof*. l. 20. r *church being*. p. 105. l 6 r *consulatory*, p 106. l. 33, r. *of the reformation*, 108, l 25, r *it hath*, p 109, l. 31, r *can be*, p 112 l 14 r *who were*, p 115. l 19. *to this* p 118. l 22. r *belong to*, p 121. l 29, r *expressing*, p. 122. l 17. r *desires*, p. 123 r *ought* p 131 l 3. r *a more powerful* p. 134 l 6, r *Laws of the*, l 26 r *ts*. l *ult* r *neglected*, p. 136. l. 5 r *Scandals*. p 137 l 5 r *processed* l. 17 r *and* *sents* l 31. r *deluded*, p 141 l 5 r *pray* p 145 l 23 r *reverend* l ult f *it setle* r *setle* 149 l 2 r *could* p 151 l 15 r *informe* p 153 l 14 r *of peace* p 156 l 25. r *the* *ut*, p 160 l 13 r *not so*. l 20 r *which now* l 32 r *bestow* p 164 l 8 r *to the As-* *mbly* p 165 l 18 r *of the prevailing*. p 173 l 21 r *to keep* p 174 l 14 r *to commu-* *ate* p 175 l 9 r *Association* l 20 r *conscience*, p 183 l 10 r *hither*. l 12 r *undertake* 186 l 11 r *A. Ker*. p 191 l 34 r *in the Face* p 197. l. 26. r *Assistance* l. 36 r *and* 198 l 25 r *church*. p 199 l 14, r *shall*. p 201 l 9, f *shall become* r *become*. p. 1 6. *dele the danger* p 209 l 10 r *Mr. Robert Barclay*. p 210, l 4 r *saids*. l 29 *the* p 213, l 2 r *length*. p 214 l ult r *visiting*. p 215 l 24 r *were one* l 25 *to your*. p 217 l 13, r *distressed Brethren*. l 20 *to the Ministers* l 26 r *good grounds*. p 218 l 12 r *the said* l 27 for *this the said* r *the said*. p 227 l *not brought*. p 230 l 4 r *dearly*. p 234 l 19 r *lose*, l 29. r *seen* p 238 l 8 r *your* *ters*. p 239 l 19 r *Ecclesiarum* p 240 l 36 r *subsidium*. l ult r *agnoscimus*. p 241 r *gratias agnoscimus* p 242 l 6 r *sociati*. *Ib* l 11 r *consilium*. l 27 r *religioso*. *penult* r *religiosi*. l 28 r *[illegible]*. p 243 l 15 r *cineribus*. l 22 r *redivivi*. l 20 r *duxerit*. l 22 r *legates*. p 24[illegible] r *to the word*. p 249 l 7 r *sung*. p 254 l 20 r. *this* *ing delayed*. p 257 l 22 r *in* [illegible] p 259 l *penult* r *twice* p 260 l 27 r *the greek*. l 28 r *taught*. p 261 l 8 f *that by* [illegible] l 28 r *delay*. p 266 l 17 r *qualifi-* *tions* l 28 r *that*. p 267 l 15 r *in* [illegible] l 27 r *Officers*. p 272 l 14 r *is wise* l 29 r *sheath*. l 32 r *come*. l 36 r *heads*. p 273 l 10 r *is shot*. p 275 l 22 r *scent*. p 276 l 2 r *here*. p 277 l 3 r *sent*. l 27 r *and*. p 278 l 21 r *bloweth*. l 25 r *peoples*. p 280 l 30 r *necessary*. p 281 l 4 r *intercommuning* p 282 l 14 r *scandalous*. l 28 r *bond* p 286 l 28 r *bounds*. p 295 l 9 r *freely*. p 296 l 2 r *successe of*. p 299 l 21 r *name of* *the*. p 301 l 6 r *of religion*. p 304 l 11 r *hainous*. p 306 l 23 r *conferences*. l 38 r *reacheth*. l 38 r *hereto*. p 307 l 29 r *at visitation*. p 309 l 11 r *incounter* p 310 l 2 f *the preceeding* r *the Commission of the preceeding*. l 29 r *to reason*. p 313

l 24

ERRATA.

l 24 r is profaned. p 315 l 1 f may are r many are. Ib l 1 f many be r may be. l
r attend p 316 l 26 r publick. p 320 l 12 r with which the. p 321 l 19 r hazard
ed. p 322 l ult r found. p 323 l 15 r nor how. p 324 l 9 r goe on. p 325 l 32
pervert. l 34 r gulfes. p 326 l 27 r to the several. p 328 l 15 r cannot be. p 33
l 20 r ought to be. Ib l 20 r especially heresie. p 335 l 12 r joined. p 336 l 18 r be
ginning. p 341 l 29 r thrust. p 345 l 4 r apply. l 22 r be conveen. p 347 l 12 r the
souls. p 348 l 18 r think. l 19 r to the same. Ib l 29 r comfort. p 354 l 16 r nin
l 22 r ordaine. l. 22 r Presbitries. p 356 l 25 r speciall. p 357 l 16 r begin r be
l 21 r preceding. p. 359. l. 10 r. uniformity. p. 363 l 21 r from. p 365 l 31 r hin
derances. p 366 l 11 r are standing. p 368 l 28 r General. p 369 l 15 r Jonyt. p 37
l 17 r professing all. l penult r advyce. p 379 l 11 r contraveeners. l 13 r will b
p 380 l 19 r directions. p 386 l 8 r confirmed. l 24 r reasons. l 29 r we are
p 387 l 20 r on both. l 36 r of erue. p 391 l 7 r liberties of the. Ib l 16 r associat
l 25 r have not p 392 l 29 r instrumentall. p 393 l 3 Reformation. l 23 r to the chil
dren. p 394 l 21 r it enters l 14 r Really. l 35 r Craftily p 395 l 3 r whosoever. Ib
r Misprisers. l 15 r ordinances. l. ult. r have. p. 397 l 32 f Jones r. James. p 39
l 29 r but also. p 399 l penult r Tye p 400 l 7 r violated. p 401 l 4 r 1648. p 40
l 36 r sphere. p 406 l 11 r of these. p 407 l 7 r supplicating l 16 r do bear. p 40
l 22 r path. p 410 l 25 r affairs l 27 r of a treaty p 412 l 15 r pretend. l 18
warning to. p 413 l 5 r of our. l 8 r blasphemy. p. 415 l 23 r declaring. p 41
l 2 r flatters. p 417 l 17 r success of. p 420 l 34 r therein. p 422 l 18 r Univer-
sities p 423 l 21 r each p 425 l 7 r in the General. p 426 l 24 f in that r that. Ib
r profite. p 427 l 3 r Trelapse. p 428 l. 9 r be weill p 430 l 5 r Assembly. 1642 l
r their going. p 431 l 4 r already p 437 l 15 r selves as heretofore. p 439 l
r what they p 440 l 1 r on your right hand & on your left hand. l ult. r cutting
p 442 l 6 r and to send. p 444 l 19 r to the several. p 445 l 8 r only an l 9 r as
sociation. Ib r was made. l 11 f in and r and. p 446 l 35 r prescribe. p 447 l 1
the Act. l 11 r Communion. p 448 l 1 f of the rising r the rising of the. p 452 l
r that followed p 452 l 3 r truth. l 13 r policie. p 454 l 25 r to hold. p 455 l 13 r
my out of. p 457 l 19 f yet r and l. 22 r this realme. Ib r gainstand. p 461 l
r from without. l 37 r discerning. p 464 l 31 r as a father. p 465 l 20 r filled.
470 l 25 r part of the. l 27 r be brought. p 472 l 23 r on the one p 474 l
the tye. p 476 l 13 dele according. l 30 r draw. l 34 r pray. p 477 l 26
Presbitries r to Presbyteries p 479 l 10 r reserved p 480 l 28 r honour p 4
15 r sollicit p 483 l. 36. r of divines.

There are several Misnumbrings in the pages and Runing-Titles, which the Reader may help without any further Direction.

These *Erratas* are to be Cut off and to follow the Preface.

An

INDEX

Of the Principal unprinted Acts of the Assembly at *Glasgow*, 1638.

Act containing sundry protestations between the Commissioners Grace and the members of the Assembly.

Act of Election of *Mr. Alexander Henderson* to be Moderatour.

Act of *Mr. Archibald Iohnstoun* his admission to be Clerk and his production of the Registers of the Kirk, which were preserved by *Gods* wonderful providence.

An act disallowing any private conference, and constant Assessours to the Moderatour.

The Act Registrating his Majesties will given in by his Commissioner.

The Act bearing the Assemblies Protestation against the dissolution thereof.

Act anent the Presbitery of *Auchterardors* present seat at *Aberuthven* for a time.

Act anent the order of receiving the repentance of any penitent *Prelate*.

Act anent the admission of *Mr. Archibald Iohnstoun* to be Advocate and *Mr. Robert Dalgleish* to be Agent for the Kirk.

Act anent the transporting of *Mr. Alexander Henderson* from *Leuchars* to *Edinburgh*.

Act containing a Commission to sit at *Edinburgh* December, 26.

Another Commission to sit at *Jedburgh* Ian, 22.

Another Commission to sit at *Irwin* Ian, 15.

Another Commission to sit at *Dundie* Feb, 5.

Another Commission to sit at *Chanrie* and *Forres*, March, 19.

Another Commission to sit at *Kirkubright*, Feb. 6.

A Commission for visitation of the Colledge of *Aberdeen*.

A Commission for visitation of the Colledge of *Glasgow*.

Act appointing the Commissioners to attend the Parliament, and the Articles which they are to represent in name of the Kirk to the Estates.

Act ordaining the Presbyteries to intimate in their several Pulpites the Assemblies explanation of the Confession of Faith.

The Act against *Episcopacy* The Act against the *Five Articles*. The act against the *Service Book*. The *Book of Cannons*. The *Book of Ordination* The *High Commission*.

Acts of Excommunication and deposition against some *Prelates*, and

of deposition only against some Aof them.
Act ordaining all Presbyteries to keep a soleman thanksgiving in all Parishes, for *Gods* Blessing and good success to this Assembly, upon the first convenient Sabbath
Act warranding the *Moderator* and *Clerk* to give out summonds upon relevant complaints, against parties to compear before the next Assembly.
Act that none be chosen as *Ruling Elders* to sit in Presbyteries, Provincial, or General Assemblies, but those who subscribes the Covenant as it is now declared, and acknowledges the constitutions of this Assembly.
Act for representing to the Parliament the necessity of the standing of the *Procurators* place for the Kirk.

Index of the Principal Acts of the Assembly at Edinburgh, 1639, *not Printed.*

The Kings Majesties Commission to *John* Earle of *Traquair*.
Election of Master *David Dickson* Moderator.
The Kings Majesties Commissioners, and the Assemblies Declarations anent the Assembly of *Glasgow*.
Renounciation of Master *Alexander Lindsay* pretended Bishop of *Dunkeld*, of Episcopacy.
Commission for visitation of the University of *St. Andrews*.
Commission for visitation of the University of *Glasgow*.
Act reviving former Acts against going of Salt-pans on the Sabbath day.
Act for drawing up of a Catechisme.
Articles and overtures to be presented to the ensuing Parliament.
The report of the Committee appointed for examination of the Book called. *The Kings Manifesto*, or *Declaration*.
The Covenant or Confession of Faith.
Act anent the adjoyning of some Kirks in the Ile of *Boot* to the Presbytery of *Dennne*.
Act adjoyning some Kirks in the Iles of *Coill* and *Tyrie*, to the Provincial of *Kilmoire*.
Commission for visitation of the Colledge of *Aberdeen*.
Commission to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*.

Index of the Principal Acts of the Assembly at Aberdene, 1640, *not Printed.*

Election of Master *Andrew Ramsay* Moderator.
Act against Prophaning of the Sabbath.
Act anent Charmers.
Act renewing of a former Act made against Priors and Abbots.

Com

Commission for attending the Parliament.
Commission anent the Province of *Ross*.
Commission anent the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*.
Act anent the Presbytery-seat of *Selkirk*.
Report of the Visitors of the University of *Glasgow*, and a new Commission of Visitation of that University.
Act anent the carriage of Ministers.
Act anent the ordering of Family exercise.
Act for Ruling Elders keeping of Presbyteries.
Act anent Magistrates being Members of Kirk Session.
Approbation of the proceedings of the Commissioners appointed to attend the preceeding Parliament.
Act anent abolishing of Idolatrous Monuments.
Act anent abolishing of idolatrous monuments in and about *Aberdene*.
The report of the Visitors of the University of *Aberdene*.
Commission for visiting the University of *Aberdene*.

Index of the Principal Acts of the Assembly holden at St. Andrews, *and* Edinburgh 1641. *not Printed.*

His Majesties Commission to *John* Earle of *Weems*.
A Letter from the Parliament to the General Assembly.
Act anent the continuation of Master *Andrew Ramsay* Moderator.
His Majesties Letter to the Assembly.
Act anent the translation of the Assembly from *St, Andrews* to *Edinburgh*.
Election of Master *Alexander Henderson* Moderator.
Declaration of the Assembly anent the translation thereof to *Edinburgh*.
Act for drawing up one Catechisme one Confession of Faith, directory of publick worship and form of Kirk-government.
Act anent Master *Andrew Ramsay's* delivery to the Clerk the Books, *Warnestus* book, and others which he received at *Aberdene*.
Overtures anent transportation of Ministers, and plantation of Schooles, recommended to be advised by Synods.
Reference to the Parliament anent the Kirks of *Dunkeld*.
Act anent Master *David Calderwood*.
Commission anent erecting of a Presbytery in *Biggar*.
Commission for visitation of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.
Act anent bringing of the Synod books to the Assemblies.
Reference from the Parliament anent a Band and a Paper called a *Manifesto*.
Act anent the deleting of the Earle of *Traquairs* Declaration out of the Books of secret Councel.
Report of Overtures made anent the Plantation of Kirks in the *High-lands*.
Commission for visitation of the University of *St. Andrews*.
Commission for visitation of the University of *Glasgow*.
Commission to attend the Parliament.
Reference to that Commission anent the Presbytery of *Sky*.

Index of the Principal Acts of the Assembly holden at St Andrews, 27. July, 1642. not Printed.

His Majesties Commission granted to *Charles* Earle of *Dumfermling*.
Election of Master *Robert Douglas* Moderator.
Acceptation of the Commission from the *Scottish* Kirk at *Campshire*, granted to Master *William Spang*.
Act renewing the Commissions for Visitation of the Universities of *St, Andrews*, and *Glasgow*.
Act anent delivery of the *Irish* contribution to the receivers appointed by the secret Councill.
Act anent Idolatrous monuments in *Ruthwall*,
Act anent the Books of the Presbyteries in our Army that went to *England*.
Act anent the planting of the Kirk of *Kirwinning*.
Commission anent the erecting of a Presbytery in *Bigger*.
Act repealing the Act of the Synod of *Galloway* concerning the tryal of Actual Ministers.
The Kings Declaration anent the gift of 500. Lib.
Act for sending of Expectants to *Ireland*, and for a Commission to be drawn up to some Ministers to go there.
Recommendation to the Marques of *Argyle* anent *Patrick Egerie* Priest, and all other Priests, or slayers of Masse in the North Iles, or within the bounds of his Justiciarie.
Act anent the reponing of Master *Gilbert Power*.
Act for putting the Overtures anent maintaining of Bursars in every Presbytery in practice.
Report of the Commission for revising of some Synod Books, and the Assemblies approbation.
Act for giving transumpts of the Covenant and Band.
Act for sending of General Acts of Assemblies to Synods.
Act anent *James Murray*.
Report of the Committee of reports of the proceedings of the Commissioners of the last Assembly appointed to attend the Parliament, with certain overtures of the Assemblies approbation thereof, with the double of the Signator of 500. lib. sent to his Majesty.
Commission for visitation of *Orkney* and *Zetland*.
Reference to the Commission of this Assembly, anent the choice of any Minister to go to *Ireland*, in place of any of the six appointed by this Assembly to that effect, in case they or any of them be impeded by sickness or death.
Recommendation of the *Iles*, *Annandail*, *Eskdail*, *Liddesdail*, &c. for want of Kirks and Schooles: of the Presbyteries of *Lochmaben*, and *Newbie*, for want of a Civil Magistrate, to the Commission for Plantation of Kirks, and secret Councill, *Respective*.
Reference to the Commission of this Assembly for planting of the Kirks of *Edinburgh*.
Act anent Master *Colvils* invitation to St. *Andrews*.
Commission anent the planting of the Landwart Kirks of *St, Andrews*.
References and Overtures, and the Assemblies answer thereto.
Reference to the Commission of this

this Assembly anent Master *James Fairlie*.
Reference to the Commission of this Assembly anent the planting of the Kirk of *Dundie*.
Overtures anent the Kirk of *Camphire*.
Recommendation to the Magistrates of *Glasgow* anent mundays market.
Act anent giving in to the Clerk the list of Expectants.
Act giving power and liberty to Sir *Archibald Johnstoun* Procurator for the Kirk, and Clerk to the General Assembly, to adjoyne any to himself, or to depute any in these Offices whom he shall think fit.

Index of the Acts of the Assembly holden at Edinburgh, 1643, *not Printed.*

THe Kings Majesties Commission to Sir. *Thomas Hope* of Craighall Knight, His Majesties Advocate.
Election of Master *Alexander Henderson*, Moderatour.
Appointment of Master *John Scot*, who was sent from the Presbyterie in the Scottish Army in *Ireland*, to be present in the Assembly every Session.
Questions propounded by the Moderatour, to some brethren in the North, anent some Papists there, and their answer thereunto.
Commission for visitation of the University of St. *Andrews*.
Letters from Master *William Spang*, Minister of the Scots Kirk at *Camphire*, with attestations of some Dutch Kirks, anent hanging of Pensils in Kirks, &c.
Act for Summar Excommunication of *Adam Abercrombie*.
Approbation of the deposition of Master *John Forbes*, With an ordinance for his Subscribing the Covenant.
Questions from the Presbytery of *Hadingtoun*, with the Assemblies resolution thereof, anent Sir *John Seaton*, and his Daughter.
Approbation of the advice of the Commissioners of the late Assembly at St. *Andrews*, for not Printing two Acts of the last Assembly held at *Aberdene*.
Approbation of the Lord *Maitland* his Faithful discharging the Commission given to him by the late Assembly at St. *Andrews*, for repairing to the Kings Majesty and Parliament of England, *&c.*
Committee appointed to meet with the English Commissioners.
Power of Collectory to Master *Robert Dalgliesh*, of the annuity of 500. lib. Sterling granted by his Majesty to the Kirk.
Approbation of the Lord Marquesse of *Argyle* his apprehending *Renald Mackronald* Priest.
Approbation of the Laird of *Birsteboge*, for apprehending *John Robeson* Priest.
Renounciatiation of the unlawful Band, conforme to the ordinance of the Assembly at *Edinburgh*. 1641.
Recommendation anent the captives in Argiers.
Approbation of Master *Alexander Henderson* his Faithful and wise carriage in discharging of the Commissions given to him by

the Commissioners of the late Assembly, for going to His Majestie, &c.

Report of the Committee appointed to meet with the English Commissioners

Report of the Committee appointed for trying the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, the Assemblies approbation, admonition and publick rebuke of the several brethren of that Presbytery *respective* according to their behaviours.

An Suspension of Master *John Graham*, With the ordinance for debarring the Ministers who are Commissioners of that Presbyterie from this Assembly.

Recommendation to the Synod of *Pirth* for reconciling the differences amongst the brethren of that Presbytery.

Publick rebuke of Master *Henry Guthie*.

Recommendation of the desire of Sir *John Crawford* of *Kilburnie* Knight, to the Presbytery of *Dumbartan*.

Anent Doctour *Howies* papers.

Act anent the desire of the Letters sent from the Minister of the Scottish Kirk at *Camphire*.

Recommendation to him, to urge the subscribing of the Covenant.

Deposition of Master *Andrew Logie*.

Erection of a presbytery at *Biggar*, with a suspension of entry thereunto.

Reference of the matter betwixt the Parishoners of *Closburn &c.* and the Presbyterie of *Penpont*, to the Synod of *Drumfreis*.

Reference of the Petition of *Dunscoir* to the Commiss. Parl. for Plantation of Kirks.

Recommendation anent the Kirk of *Carubie*, to the Presbytery of St. *Andrews*.

Remitt. anent *Trastat* and *Drumgrey*, to the Synod of *Drumfries*.

Act anent *Reoer Lindsay* of *Maines* his Excommunication, with a Recommendation to the Convention of Estates Concerning him.

Recommendation to the Convention of Estates, anent Persons Excommunicate.

Commission for visitation of *Orkney*, *Zetland*. &c.

Act anent the Kirk of *Stracathro*.

Recommendation anent Erecting a Kirk at *Seatoun*.

Reference to the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly, for the publick affairs of this Kirk, for providing the Universitie of *Aberdene* with a Professour of Divinitv.

Reference to the said Commiss. for providing a Professour of Divinity to the Universitie of St. *Andrews*.

Committee appointed to conferre with the English Commissioners upon the papers presented by them to the Assembly upon the 15. of *August*.

Committee to conferre also with the Committee of the Convention of Estates thereanent.

Ordinance that Master *Alexander Henderson*, Master *David Calderwood*, and Master *David Dickson* make some draught and forme of the publick Directory for Worship.

Act for proceeding with Ecclesiastick Censures against the Murtherers of *William Crichtoun*.

Commission appointed to sit at *Air* for the particulars concerning the Parochiners of *Stanikirk*, &c.

Tryal of the Synod Books.

Approbation of the Act of the last Assembly, concerning the power granted to Sir *Archibald Johnstoun*, Procurator for the Kirk, and Clerk to the Assembly.

Recom-

ecommendation of the matter concerning a Collegue to the Minister of *Drumfries*, to the Commissioners of Parliament for Plantation of Kirks.
ecommendation to the Synod of *Lowthian*; to try the proceedings of the Presbytery of *Peebles*, in admission of Master *John Hay* to the Kirk of *Peebles*.
eference of Master *John Mackeinzie* to the Commission of the Generall Assembly.
& for proceeding against the Presbytery of *Sky*, for not keeping the Synod.
ecommendation to the Lord Marquess of *Argyle*, to move the ruling Elders in *Argyle*, to be more observant of Presbyteries and, Synods.
ecommendation to the Lord *Marquesse Argyle* for planting *Lochabers*.
Ordinance for supressing of *Sub-Synods*.
Ordinance for deleting an Act of the Synod of *Murray*.
Reference anent the order of Tryal of Synods, Presbyteries, and Kirks, with a recommendation for using the orders set down in the Assemblies 1638. and 1602. in the *interim*.
Commission for planting the Kirks of *Edinburgh*.
Remit to the Presbytery of St. *Andrews*, anent the Kirk of *Largo*.
Recommendation of Master *James Fairlie*, to the Commission of this Assembly.
Recommendation anent the Bill given in by *William Janson* Printer in *Amsterdam*.
Reference anent Master *Robert Fleming* to the Commission appointed to sit at *Air*.
Report and approbation of the proceedings of the Commission of visitation for the Universitie of *Glasgow*.
Commission for Visitation of that Universitie.
Report of the Committee anent the distressed People in *Ireland*.
Recommendation to the Commissioners of the General Assembly, to sit at *Edinburgh* anent expectants to go to *Ireland*.
Acts anent *James Murray*.
Recommendation of *Master Robert Brown*.
Commission to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, for his admission to the Earle of *Irwines* Regiment.
Report of the Committee anent the receiving and dispensing of his receipts of the annuitie of five hundred pound sterling, *&c.* And approbation thereof.
Report of the Committee appointed to consider the References from the Commission of the late Assembly.
Act for *Master Andrew Murray*, Minister at *Ebdie*, his exercise of his calling of the Ministerie, and for rejecting honours, *&c.* Incompatible with that calling.
Recommendation of *Master William Bennet* Minister at *Anerum*, to abstain from civil Courts and Meetings, *&c.*
Recommendation to the Commissioners of the Assembly for tryal if any Excommunicat Papists be in the Scottish Regiments in *France*, *&c.*
Recommendation of *Master James Johnstoun*.
Reference of *Tillifruskie* to the Presbyterie of *Edinburgh*.
Recommendation anent Laird *Gagies* mortification.
Recommendation of Master *Alexander Trotter*.
Recommendation anent the dismembering some parts of the Paroch of *Hadingtoun*, to be a severall Parochine.

Other

Index of the Acts of the Assembly holden at Edinburgh, 1644, not Printed.

ELection of Master *James Bonar* Moderator *Sess*, I.

Continuation of the decision in the question concerning the Commission from *Crail*, untill the appellation be discussed. *Ib.*

Appointment of Committees for Bills, Reports, &c. *Sess*, II.

A Letter from the Presbytery at the Armie concerning sending Ministers unto them. *Ib.*

A Letter from the Presbyterie in *Ireland*, Ib.

The Assemblies thankful resentment of the E. *Louthians* sufferings, *Ib*,

The desire of the Convention of Estates, to quicken the proceedings of the Assembly, and the Assemblies Resolutions thereinto. *Sess*, III.

Reference to the Commission to be appointed by the Assembly, for presenting Overtures, Acts, &c. to the Parliament. *Ib*,

Renovation of the Act of the preceeding Assembly, for planting the new Colledge of *St. Andrews*, *Ib*,

Ref. of *Dunmures* Bill:

Ref. of *Aytouns* Bill,

Committee to consider some Overtures concerning Universities and Schooles. *Sess*, IV,

Commission granted to Mr. *William Cockburn*, & Mr. *Hugh Mackel* for the first 3. Moneths beginning the 1. of Aug. next; to Mr, *George Dick*, and Mr, *John Dick*, the next 3. Moneths, and to Mr, *John Levingstoun*, and Mr *Thomas Wylie* for the Last 3. Moneths, to repair to the North of *Ireland*, bearing the same power granted to the Persons appointed for that imployment by the preceeding Assembly. *Ib.*

Renovation of the Commission for sending Expectants to *Ireland*, *Ib*

Recom. of Sir *John Weemes* of *Bagie*, his Bill. *Ib.*

Commission for visitation of *Orkney*, *Zetland*, *Caithness*, *Sutherland* and *Rosse*, to Masters *William Falconer* and *Murdo Mackenzie*, and *Alexander Brodie* of that Ilk.

Act for, M. *George Halyburtoun* going to the Army. Ib,

Report of the Lords of Exchequer their promise concerning payment of some of the arrears of the Annuitie of 500. L. *Ib*, *Ib.*

Act and Reference concerning Mr. *James Wood*, *Ib.*

Reference to the Commission of this Assembly concerning the Papers presented by my Lord *Warristoun*, which were directed to the Commissioners of the preceeding Assembly, *Sess*, V,

Ref. to the Commission for planting the New Colledge of *Aberdeen*. *Ib.*

Transportation of Mr, *George Leslie* to the Kirk of *Leslie*. *Ib.*

Act concerning the planting of the Kirk of *Syres*, *Ib.*

Ref. of the Countess of *Kinnowles* Bill to the Commission. *Ib.*

Act concerning Mr. *Andrew Murray* Minister at *Ebdie*, *Ib.*

Act and Ref. concerning the planting of the Kirk of *Lamingtoun*. *Ib.*

Ref. to the Commission of the Assembly concerning Overtures for Universities and Schooles, &c. *Sess*, VI.

Ref.

Ref. to the said Commission for planting the Kirk of *Aberdeen*, *Ib.*
Indiction of a Fast, *Ib.*
Renovation of the appointment of the preceeding Assembly for framing a Directory for Worship, and for Tryal of Synods, Presbyteries, and Kirks. *Ib.*
Act for the Clerks subscribing the deliverance of the Committee of Bills for Charity to the distressed People of *Ireland*. *Ib.*
Ref. to the Commission for considering the formes and draughts of Commissions for Visitation of Universities. *Ib.*
Act recalling two Acts of Commission for Visitation of the University of S. *Andrews*. *Ib.*
Recom. to the said Commission concerning confirmation of Ministers Books in their Wives Testaments. *Ib.*
Recom. to the said Commission concerning Witches and Charmers. *Ib.*
Ref. of the Overtures of the Synod of *Murray* to the said Commission. *Ib.*
Recom of D. *Adam Stuart*. *Ib.*
Renovation of the Act concerning *James Murray*. *Sess. alt.*
Continuation of the Commission of the preceeding Assembly appointed to sit at *Air*. *Ib.*
Act concerning Mr. *Robert Peirson* Minister in *Orkney*. *Ib.*
Recom. of the Lord *Gask* Bill. *Ib.*
Act concerning the Kirks of *Aberchirdour* and *Ennerkethenne*, *Ib.*
Ref. of Mr. *Alex. Petries* Letter to the Commission of Assembly. *Ib.*
Act concerning the reposition of Mr. *John Maxwel* sometime Minister at *Glasgow*, with an Ordinance for his subscribing a particular Declaration of the unlawfulness of Episcopacy. *Ib.*
Ref. of my Lord *Seatons* Bill to the Commission of Assembly. *Ib.*
Letter from the Presbytery of the Army, with a Reference to the Commission concerning the restraint of transporting Women to the Army. *Ib.*
Ref. to the Commission of Assembly concerning the Letters from the Commissioners at *London*, &c. and concerning the Paraphrase of the Psalmes in Meeter. *Ibid.*
Ref. of my Lord *Testers* Bill to the said Commission. *Ibid.*
Act concerning Mr. *Alexander Trotter*. *Ib.*
Ref. of *Margaret Thomsons* Bill to the Commission of Assembly. *Ib.*
Remit. of the Presbytery of *Aithernardour*, concerning the matter of Mr. *William Cook*. *Ib.*
Transplantation of Mr. *William Rait* to *Brechen*, *Ib.*
Ordinance for the Ministers of the Presbytery of *Peebles* their acknowledgement of their disobedience to the Acts both of the Generall and Provincial Assemblies, in admitting Mr. *John Hay*, upon their knees before the Provincial of *Louthian*; and approbation of the Dissenters; with Mr. *John Hayes* Declaration, and the Assemblies Ordinance for his subscribing a particular Declaration concerning the unlawfulness of Episcopacy. *Ib.*
Ref. concerning the Kirk of *Lesmahago* to their Provincial. *Ib.*
Ratification of the Contract betwixt *James Maxwel* of *Innerweeke*, and Mr. *John Macghie*, concerning the augmentation of the Ministers Provision at *Dalstoun*, and of the Acts of Presbytery and Synod thereanent. *Ib.*
Ref. from the Presbytery of *Hadingtoun*, and the Assemblies Answers, *Ib.*
Act for the Presbytery of *Ersiltoune* furnishing of Ministers to the Master of *Craufords* Regiment; and

for sending forth presently Mr. *Thomas Donaldson*. *Ib.*
Act for the Presb. of *Dalkeith* sending a Minister to La. *Nidisres* Regiment. *Ib.*
Ref. to the Commission of Assembly of the desires and Overtures of *Caithnes*, *Ib.*

INDEX of the ACTS of this Assembly holden at Edinburgh. 1645. not Printed.

THe Remonstrance sent to the Kings Majesty from the Commissioners of the preceding Assembly, concerning the Dyet and occasion of the meeting of this Assembly.
Election of Mr. *Robert Douglas* Moderator. *Ib.*
Report of Mr. *Robert Baillie*, and Mr. *Geo. Gillespie*, of the progress of the Treaty for Uniformity, *Sess.* 2.
Appointment of Committees for the Directory, and for Bills, Appeals, &c. *Ib.*
Ref. of the Petitions from *Ireland* to the Committee of Bills, *Sess.* 3.
Letter to Mr. *James Martin* for intimating the Deposition of Mr. *William Barclay*. *Ib.*
Acts appointing Mr. *James Nasmith* to attend the Lord *Montgomeries* Regiment; Mr. *Arthur Granger*, Lieutenant General *Baillie* his Regiment; and Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* to the Earl of *Lothians* Regiment. *Ib.*
Ref. of the Lord General's Letter to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, *Ib.*
Ref. of the Petition of Mr. *James Hamiltons* Wife to the Committee for the Directory. *Ib.*
Recommendation to the Parliament for Ministers Isles, *Sess.* 4.
Committee concerning Bursers, *Ib.*
Commmittee to confer with the Lord *Ogilvie*, *Sess.* 5.
Act ordaining the Presbytery of *Hamilton* to proceed against Mr. *John Rae* for refusing the Covenant. With an Ordinance for giving in to the Clerk the report of Mr. *John Hamiltoun* subscribing the Covenant, and of the Excommunication of *D. Hamiltoun*.
Act discharging the relaxation of *Nath Gordoun*, with a reference concerning the same to the Commissioners of this Assembly. *Ibid.*
Committee for examining the witnesses against Mr. *John Robertson*, and Mr. *John Fife*. *Ib.*
The Solemne League and Covenant of the three Kingdoms, (which is not here printed, because already printed by Ordinance of the Commission of Assembly 1643. and universally subscribed) with an Approbation of the Ordinances, and the diligence of the Commissioners of Assembly for receiving thereof, &c. *Ib.*
Committee concerning Col. *Arskines* Regiment. *Sess.* 6.
Committee appointed to speak with Col. *Monro*, concerning Letters sent from the Officers of the Army of *Ireland*, *Ib.*
Committee for examining witnesses against Mr. *James Oliphant*. *Ib.*
Invitation of all who had scruples con-

concerning the Directory, to addreſs themſelves to that Committee, with a reference to the ſaid Committee concerning uniformity of practice of the Directory in this Kirk. *Ib.*

Committee to conferre with the young Laird of *Drum*. *Ib.*

Appointment of *Mr. Hugh Henderſon* to Col. *Stuarts* Regiment. *Seſſ.* 7.

Committee for hearing *Mr. James Wood*, and the Commiſſioners from S. *Andrews* and *Aberdene*. *Ib.*

Recommendation of *Barbara Mains* Petition to the Parliament. *Ib.*

Recommendation to the Parliament concerning the Army in *Ireland*.

Invitation again of all that had ſcruples or doubts concerning the Directory, to addreſs themſelves to the Committee for reſolution. *Ib.*

Recommendation to the Parliament of the Petition of the Hoſpital of *Leith*, *Seſſ.* 8.

Recommendation to the Parliament of the Petition of the Kirk *Drummen*. *Ib.*

Refer. of the Petition from the Northweſt parts of *Ireland* to the Committee of Bills. *Ib.*

Recom. for a charitable ſupply to the people in and about *Borrowſtounneſs*, viſited with the plague. *Ib.*

Tranſportation of Mr. *James Wood* to S. *Andrews*. *Ib.*

Commiſſion for Maſters *Alexander Blair* Miniſter at *Galſtoun*, *Robert Hamiltoun* Miniſter at *Ballentrae*, to go to *Ireland* for the firſt three Months, beginning the firſt day of *July*. Mr. *Samuel Row* Miniſter at *Kirkmabrek*, Mr. *Alexander Levingſtoun* Miniſter at *Carmichael* for the next three Months, beginning the firſt day of *October*, and Mr. *Henry Colwart* Miniſter at *Paſley*, and Mr. *Henry Semple* Miniſter at *Kilbarne*, beginning the firſt of *January* next. *Seſſ.* 9.

Act for Miniſters to the Earl of *Lantricks* Regiment of Horſe. *Ib.*

Sentence abſolvitour of Mr. *James Lichtoun*. *Ib.*

Act for Miniſters to the L. *Balganie* and L. *Kirkcudbrights* Regiments. *Ib.*

Committee for Colon. *Areskines* Regiment.

Committee for conferring with the Laird of *Drums* ſecond Son, and their report. *Seſſ.* 10.

The Directory for publick Worſhip in the three Kingdoms. *Ib.*

Committee for preſenting the Directory to the Parliament. *Ib.*

Act for planting the Kirk of *Tarbet*. *Ib.*

Committee appointed to aſſiſt the Petition given into the Parliament, for trying and executing ſome Witches. *Seſſ.* 11.

Committe appointed to viſit young *Drum*. *Ib.*

Refer. to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, for planting the Kirk of *Hamiltoun*. *Ib.*

Exemption of Mr. *Alexander Balnaves*, from going to *Kirkcudbright* Regiment. *Ib.*

Refer. to the Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*, for planting the Kirk of *Manchline*. *Ib.*

Committee appointed for conſidering the beſt means for planting the Kirk and new Colledge of *Aberdene*. *Ib.*

My Lord *Angus*, and the Laird of *Lammingtouns* ſubmiſſion to the Aſſembly, with the Aſſemblies determination, concerning the planting of the Kirk of *Lammingtoun*. *Ib.*

Recom. of Mr. *Andrew Matghie* to

the Presbytery of *Hadingtoun*. *Ib.*
Recom. of Mr. *William Long* to the Presbytery of *Glasgow*. *Ib.*
Recom. concerning the new Kirk of *Carisarne* to the Parliament. *Ib.*
Committee appointed to consider of the way for Printing Mr. *Rob. Boyd* of *Trochrigs* Works. *Ib.*
Ref to the Commission at *Edinburgh*, for reviſing the Labours of a Brother, upon the continuation of the Hiſtory of this Kirk, and thereafter to cauſe Print them with conſent of the Author. *Ib.*
Approbation of the Report, concerning the injuries done to Mr. *John Burne* in *London-Derie*, with a Recom. thereof to the Parliament, and a Letter to the Commiſſioners at *London*. *Seſſ.* 12.
Two Acts concerning *James Murray*. Ib.
Appointment of the Commiſſioners of Prebyteries, to give in a liſt of the Excommunicate perſons within their bounds to the Clerk. *Ib.*
Committee for aſſiſting the Petition to the Parliament, for the neceſſities of the Army in *Ireland*. Ib
Recom. of Mr. *John Williamſon* to the Presbytery of St. *Andrews*. Ib.
Tryal of the Books of the Synods of *Lothian*, *Dumfreit*, *Glaſgow*, *Aberden*. and *Roſs*, which were only produced. Ib.
Admiſſion of the Excuſes for not production of the Books of *Fife*, *Angus*, and *Perth*. Ib.
Recom. of Sir *James Hopes* Petition to the Presbytery of *Lanrick*. Ib.
Recom. to the Parliament, concerning Suſpenſions againſt Miniſters and Univerſities. Ib.
Recom. of Mr. *Thomas Boyd* to the Presbytery of *Glaſgow*. Ib.
Recom. of Mr. *John Bruce* to the Parliament and Commiſſion, for Plantation of Kirks. Ib.
Recom. of the Petition of the Synod of *Galloway* to the Parliament, concerning *Tho. Mackee* Ib.
Recom. of the Petition of the Inhabitants of the *Chanrie of Roſs* to the Parliament, and to the Commiſſion for planting of Kirks. *Ib.*
Recom. of the Petition of Mr. *Archbald Maccorquodill* Student in S. *Andrews*, to D. *Colvill* Profeſſor of Divinity there. Ib.
Recom. of the Petition of the Parochiners of *Paſley* to the Commiſ. of Parl. for planting of Kirks. *Ib.*
Recom. of Mr. *Robert Torres* to the Commiſſion of Parliament, for Plantation of Kirks. Ib.
Recom to the Parliament, of the Petition of the Miniſters upon the Borders, concerning the inſolence of Moſs-Troopers. Ib.
Recom. of the *Petition* of the unprovided Miniſters within the Provinces of *Aberdene*, *Murray*, and *Roſs* to the Parliament, and Commiſſion of Parliament for plantation of Kirks; Ib.
Recom. to the Parliament for changing the Fairs upon *Mondays* to ſome other day. Ib.
Ref to the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, for going on in the proceſs againſt Mr. *Geo. Bryde*, With a Recom. to the E. *Hartfell*, to poſſeſs the Miniſter to the Kirk, and concerning Mr. *Thomas Chambers* Gleib, Ib.
Two Letters from the Commiſſioners at *London*. *Seſſ.* 13.
Act authorizing Mr. *Alexander Henderſon* to aſſiſt the Commiſſioners of Parliament in the Treaty at *Uxbridge*, in matters concerning Religion, Ib.
Ref. of the Propoſition concerning Excommunication to the Committee for the Directory. Ib.
Ref. of the Propoſitions concerning Go-

Government to the Committee for the Directory. Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *George Halyburtoun*. Ib.
Renovation of the Commission, for trying and censuring the Ryot at *Stanikirk*, Sess. 14.
Renovation of the Commission, for visiting the Univetsity of St. *Andrews*, Ib.
Renovation of the Commission, for visiting the University of *Glasgow*, Ib.
Indiction of a Fast. Ib.
Committee for presenting the Petition to the Parliament. Ib.
Act for a Minister to Preach to the Lord *Vchiltrie* in the *Blackness*.
Ordinance for Mr. *James Campbell*, his attending my Lord *Coupers* Regiment. Ib.
Invitation of any that had doubts concerning the Propositions of Government, *&c.* to come to the Committee for Resolution. Ib.
Ordinance for Mr. *John Govans* repairing to my Lord *Kircudbrights* Regiment. Ib.
Recom. to the Presbyteries of *Linlithgow* and *Stirling*, for a voluntar Contribution of Clothes to the Earl of *Calenders* Regiment. Ib.
Act for admitting Mr. *James Levingstoun* Minister to the Earl of *Calenders* Regiment. Ib.
Ordinance for Mr. *John Hoomes* attendance for the E. *Lanricks* Regiment of Foot. Ib.
Ref. to the Presbytery of *Peebles*, to consider Mr. *Robert Scots* Bill, and to appoint another of their number to *Balgonies* Regiment, in case his reasons be found good. *Sess.* 15.
Ref. Mr. *Alexander Robertson* to the Commission at *Edinburgh*, Ib.
Act concerning the admission of Mr. *David Houstoun* to the Kirk of *Tyrie*. Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *John Grahame*. Ib.
Recom. of the Petition concerning the Kirk of *Logie-Montrose* to the Parliament, or their Commission for the plantation of Kirks. Ib.
Recom. of Mr. *James Hamiltouns* his relief to the Parliament. *Sess.* 16.
The Propositions of Government and Ordination. Ib.
Act concerning the Printing of Mr. *Robert Boyds* Commentar upon the *Ephesians*. Ib.
Act discharging the Printing or Reprinting of the said Commentary, and of the continuation of the History of the Kirk, and of Mr. *David Dicksons* short Explication of the Apostolical Epistles, without the consent of Mr. *John Boyd*, and of the Authors of the other Works *respective*. With a Recommendation to the Parliament for their Authority to that effect. Ib.
Warrant for printing Mr. *Robert Boyds Opuscula*. Ib.
Recommendation of the Kirk of *Calder* to the Parliament. Ib.
Recommendation of the Petition of Mr. *Alexander Trotter* to the Commission of Parliament for plantation of Kirks. Ib.
Reference to the Commission at *Edinburgh* for petitioning the Parliament, That Commissions may be granted for Visitation of Hospitals in every Province. Ib.
Recommendation to the Synod of *Aberdene*, to crave account of the Laird of *Drum* his Bursers, and of any others in that Province. Ib.
Sentence absolvitour of Mr. *James Oliphant*, with a rebuke and admonition of the particulars proven. Ib.
Recommendation of Mr. *John Weirs* Wifes Bill to the Parliament. Ib.
Act giving Warrant to the Commissioners

missioners at *London*, to agree to the clause concerning Excommunication, Sess. 17.
Act concerning the Earl of *Athols* right of presenting to the Kirk of *Blair* in *Athol*. Ib.
Reference of a Bigamist to the Justice, Ib.
Act giving power to Mr. *John Stuart* to preach at the Kirk of *Dungarth*, as an Expectant, while the Presbytery or Synod sit. Ib.
Recommendation to the Parliament concerning *Thomas Mackie* Ib.
Act for intimating Mr. *George Halyburtouns Deposition*, Ib.
Act concerning the planting of the Kirk of *Aberdour*. Ib.
Suspension of Mr. *John Robertson*. With a Reference to the Commission at *Edinburgh* for his farther tryal and censure. Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *John Fyfe*. Ib.
Recom. Mr. *Samuel Rows* petition to the Parliament. Ib.
Commission for visitation of the Universty of *Aberdene*. Ib.
Act for changing the Presbytery seat of *Aberdene*, from the old Town, to the new Town of *Aberdene*, *Ib.*
Recommen. and Reference to the Commission at *Edinburgh*, for planting the Kirk and Colledge of *Aberdene*, Ib.
Reference of the petition given in by Mr. *Thomas Mitchel*, from the Presbytery of *Turreff*, and the Viscount of *Frendraught* for himself, and in the name of the Parishoners of *Aberchirdour* and *Innerkething*, to the Commission appointed for visitation of the Universty of *Aberdene*. Sess. 18.
Ref. of the petition of the Commissioners of the Presbytery of *Strabogie* to the said Commission for visitation of *Aberdene*. Ib.
Recom. to the Parliament of Mr. *George Wisharts* Bill for his maintenance, Ib.
Ref. to the Commission at *Edinburgh*, for planting the Kirks of *Edinburgh* with three Ministers out of the Province of *Lothian*. Ib.
Ref. to the said Commission at *Aberdene*, for tryal and censure of Mr. *George Hannah*. Ib.
Ordinance for Mr. *Alexander Moncreiffs* repairing to my Lord *Balcarras* Regiment. Ib.
Committee for presenting the Propositions of Government, and of the solemn Warning, to the Parliament. Ib.
Recom. of *Isabel Peebles* Bill to the Parliament, and the Committee of losses. Ib.
Ref. of *Patrick Strauchan* to the Presbytery of *Deere*. Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *James Row*. Ib.
Declaration in favours of Ministers that cannot keep their houses in their times of troubles. Sess. 19.
Ref. to the Commission of the Kirk of the Lord *Ogilvies* Bill, with a Reference to the Parliament of the latter part of it. Ib
Ref. of the Laird of *Lamingtouns* Bill to the Province of *Glasgow*, Ib.
Act concerning Col. *Areskines* Regiment. Ib.
Recommendation of the petition of the Parishoners of *Larbar*, to the Commission for plantation of Kirks, Ib
Commission for visitation of the Hospitals of *Perth* and *Stirling*. Ib.
Recommendation of the education of the Lord *Semples* children to the Earl of *Eglingtoun*. Ib.
Ordinance to the Presbytery of *Turreff*, for Excommunicating Mr. *John Forbes*, sometime Minister at *Auchinles*, and of Mr. *William Lowman*, sometime Minister at *Cromartie*. Ib.
Ref. Mr. *William Sibbald* to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Ib.

Ref.

Ref. Mr. *Alexander Robertſon* to the Presbytery of *Kincardin*. Ib.
Ref. of the tryal and cenſure of Mr. *John Weyms* to the Commiſſion for viſitation of the Univerſity of *Aberdene*. Ib.
Recom. of the Bill concerning the Theeves in the Borders to the Parliament. Ib.
Commiſſion for viſitation of the Hoſpitals, and mortified moneys within the Province of *Aberdene*, Ib.
Commiſſion for viſitation of the Hoſpitals within the Province of *Angus*, Ib.
Act in favours of the depoſed Miniſters referred unto the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly at *Edinburgh*. Ib.
Recommendation to the Parliament for puniſhing the murther of Mr. *Patrick Lindſay*. Ib.
Recommendation to the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly at *Edinburgh*, to preſent the Propoſitions of Government to the Parliament, and to receive their anſwer thereunto. Ib.
Recommendation to the ſaid Commiſſion to urge all means for Mr. *James Hamiltouns* relief.
Letter to the Brethren of the Miniſtery in *Ireland*. Ib.
Letter to Gen. Major *Monro*. Ib.
Act appointing Mr. *Hugh Kennedie* for the firſt three moneths, beginning the firſt of *July*, Mr. *Andrew Lawder* for the ſecond three moneths, Mr. *George Hutchiſone* for the laſt three months to repair to *London Derry*. Ib.
Letter in favours of *Margaret Thomſon* to the Presbytery of *Kirkcudbright*. Ib.
Ref. to the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly ſitting at *Edinburgh*, to preſent Overtures to the Parliament for the good of the Kirk, and advancement of piety, and to proſecute theſe preſented to the preceeding Seſſions of Parliam. Ib.
Ref. to the ſaid Commiſſion to preſent an Overture to the Parliament, that Presbyteries may plant the Kirks when are of the patronage of the forfaulted and Excommunicate Perſons. Ib.
Ref. to the ſaid Commiſſion, To preſent an Overture for reſtraining of printing without Licenſe. Ib.
Act appointing Mr. *James Woods* entry to S. *Andrews* To be the firſt *Tueſday* of *June*. Ib.
Ref. to the ſaid Commiſſion for preſenting ſome Overtures to the Parliament for reſtraining the education of Youth in the Colledge of *Deway*, or any other corrupt Colledge. Ib.
Ref. of the Summonds againſt thoſe that joyned with *Montroſe* to the ſaid Commiſſion at *Edinburgh*. Ib.
Ref. to the ſaid Commiſ. concerning Witches and Charmers, Ib.
Ref. to the ſaid Commiſſion, To reviſe the Paraphraſe of the Pſalms. Ib.
Ref. to the ſaid Commiſ. concerning the tranſplanting of Mr. *Jam. Naſmith*. Ib.
Appointment of Mr. *Robert Baillie*, Mr. *Geo. Gilleſpie*, and the Lord *Warriſtoun*, To repair to *England* with all diligence. Ib.
Ref. of the Summonds againſt the Subſcribers of the Declaration at *Oxford* to the ſaid Commiſ. Ib.
Recom. of ſome diſtreſſed perſons to the charity of Presbyteries and Synods.

Index

Index of the Acts of the General Assembly not Printed 1646,

Election of Mr. *Robert Blair* Moderator. *Sess.* 1.

Committee for tryal of the Commissions questioned. Sess. 2.

Committee for References, Reports, and Appeals, Ib.

Committee for Bills and Overtures. Ib.

Committee for examining the proceeding of the Commissioners of the preceding Assembly. Ib.

Committee for revising the provincial Books. Ib.

Commission from *Ireland* for representing the condition of the Kirk there, Ib.

Letters from the Committee at *Newcastle*, the General, and the Commissioners at *London*. Ib.

Ref. concerning the printed Papers sent from the Commissioners at *London* to the Commis. Assem. Ib.

Thanks to Mr. *David Calderwood*, with a recommendation to him concerning the History of the Kirk. Ib.

Act concerning the charitable contribution for the distressed Brethren in *Argyle*. Ib.

Order for re printing the Answer of the House of Lords to the City of *Londons* Remonstrance. Iq.

Ref. to the Commis. Assem. concerning absents from this Assembly *Sess.* 3.

Report concerning the Kirks of *Levingstoun* and *Slamanna* approven. Ib

Recom. sent by *William Hume* to the Earl of *Wintoun*, concerning the L. *Semples* education. *Sess.* 4.

Recom. to the province of *Mers* and *Tivotdale*, for abolishing Festival and Patron dayes in their bounds, and to report their diligence to the next Assembly. Ib.

Committee for the Querees from the Province of *Mers*. Ib.

Committee for the Petitions from *Ireland*. Ib.

Recom. for Mr. *Alex. Case*. Ib.

Committee to confer with Mr. *James Kennedy*. Ib.

Ref. to the Commis. Assem. for planting the South Kirk of *Leith*. Ib.

Recom. concerning the *Spittle-Lands* of *Garvock* to the Commission of Parliament for plantation of Kirks. Ib.

Act for the supply of *Margaret Kind* relict of Mr. *Robert Lindsay* Minister at *Couper* in *Angus*, murdered by the Rebels. Ib.

Ref. of the Petition from *Down* and *Antrim* in *Ireland*, to the Commission of Assembly. *Sess.* 5.

Committee for the Petition of *Robert Brysons* relict. Ib.

Act for delating the Querees of *Mers* and *Tiviotdale* out of the Provincial Book. Ib.

Act concerning the Presb. of *Kirkwall*, and Mr. *Ja. Morison* their rebuke, with the reposition of the said Mr. *James*. Ib.

Report from the Earl of *Wintoun*, concerning the Lord *Sempils* education in *Glasgow*. Ib.

Letter from the Commissioners at *London*, with a Committee to consider the same. *Sess.* 6.

Ref. to that same Committee concerning Delinquents. Ib.

Concerning the relict of Mr. *Rob. Lindsay*. Ib.

Remit,

Remit. concerning *Michael Watson*, *Agnes Ritchie* and *Isabel Adam*, to the Presbytery of *Glasgow*. Ib.
Rec. Jo. *Bannerman* to the Magistrate.
Recom. Mr. *Robert Boyd* for some supply to the Presbytery of *Hamiltoun*. Ib.
Ratif. of the Act made concerning the printing Mr. *Boyd* of *Trochrigs* Book, in favours of the Relick and Successors of *Robert Bryson* Printer. Ib.
Committee for the matter concerning the Kirk of *Glenluce*. Ib.
Recom. for Ministers to imploy their Talents in writing. Ib.
Act for Mr *John Hay* at *Peebles* going to the Master of *Testers* Regiment. Sess. 7.
Recom. for conveening the Commission of Parl. for plantation of Kirks, and concerning the disorders in the Bordets, to the Committee of Estates. Ib.
Recom. *Glenvorse*, *Tweedmere*, *Kailzie* and *Bath*, to Commis. for planting Kirks. Ib.
Report of the answer of the Committee of Estates, to the particulars recommended to them. Ib.
Committee to consult upon the remedies of the disorders in the south borders. Ib.
Ordinance for *Claude Hamiltouns* relaxation. Ib.
Ref. Mr. *Peter Inglis* and his Tenents to the Commis. Assem. for publick affairs. Ib.
Refer. concerning idle and sturdy beggars, especially these called *Gipsies*, concerning concealers and destroyers of conception, adulterers, and incestuous persons to Commis. Assem. for presenting Overtures thereanent to Parliament. Ib.
Recom. of *Arch. Douglas* and *Margaret Smith* for charity. Ib.
Thanks to the E. of *Buccleugh*. Sess. 8.
Committee concerning the Earl of *Seaforts*. Ib.
Recom. concerning the present election of the Magistrats and Counsel of *Aberdeen* to the Comit. of Estates. Ib.
Ref. concerning the transportation of Mr. *Rob. Ker*, to *Hedingtoun* the Presbytery and others adjoyned. Ib.
Ref. concerning the Kirk of *Gordoun* to the Commis of Assem. Ib.
Warrant for examination of Mr. *Ja. Daes* as a witness in the matter concerning the Kirk of *Gordoun*. Ib.
Recom. *Fothringhame* Bigamist to the Justice. Ib.
Commis. for visitation of the Universitie of *St. Andrews*. Sess. 9.
Commis. for visitation of the Universitie of *Glasgow*. Ib.
Comis. for visitation of the University of *Aberdeene*. Ib.
Committee for conference with Mr. *James Kennedie* excommunicate. Ib.
Recom. Mr. *John Maccorne*. Ib.
Ref. concerning Ministers to *Ireland* to the Commis. Assem. Ib.
Ref. concerning the Petitions of *London-derry*, *Newtown*, and *Killeleauch*, to the Commis. Assem. Ib.
Recom. of Mr. *John Cunneson* and Mr. *Thomas Ireland*. Ib.
Warrant for citing witnesses in the particulars of the Paper given in by *Halyburton*. Ib.
Continuation of Sir *John Mackenzie*. Ib.
Recom. *Eliz. Borthwick*. Ib.
Committee concerning *Jam. Murray* business. Sess. 10.
Renounciation Sir *John Mackenzie* of *Seaforts* Band. Ib.
Recom. to Presbyteries that they admit not Expectants to be actual Ministers to Regiments. Ib.
Ref. to Commis. concerning Mr. *Francis Comerie*. Ib.
Committee for conference with the Committee of Estates anent

the answer to the Commissioners at London. Ib.
Rec. concerning Mr. Al. Petrie. Ib.
Ref. Mr. James Lang to the Commission for publick Affairs. Ib.
Ref. concerning Rouse's paraphrase of the Psalms to the Commis. Ib.
Recom. to Mr. David Calderwood to consider the order of the visitation of Kirks and tryal of Presbyteries, and to report to the next Assem. Ib.
Act for Mr. Thomas Wyllies removing to Mauchlen conform to the Act of transportation. Ib.
Recom. to Presb. Linlithgow concerning the the planting of Linlithgow and Falkirk, Ib.
Recom. for intimation of Seaforts excommunication. Sess. 11.
Letter from the Commissioners at London 9 Junii.
The Assemb. Answer to the Commissioners at London. Ib.
Act concerning the Lord Scottistarbets delivery of the authentick Confession of Faith, subscribed by King James and his Houshold, with an order for Thanks to him therefore. Ib.
Town of Edinburghs Bill for three Ministers laid aside. Ib.
Ref. concerning Aberchirder, and Innerkething to the Commis for visitation of the University of Aberdene. Ib.
Recom. Margery Fraiser, relick of Mr. D. Houston to the Committee of losses. Ib.
Recom. Mr. Alexander Forrester. Ib.
Recom. Margaret Campbel to the Committee of Estates. Ib.
Recom. of Agnes Halyburton to the Presb. of Merss and Tiviotdale. Ib.
Acts concerning Ja. Murray. Ib.
Ref. to the Commis. Ass. to consider the Interests of the Kirk in planting Universities and the chief Masters thereof. Ib.
Recom. concerning the publick passages of thir times, to be collected in several Presbyteries, and sent to the Com. Assem. Ib.
Recom. Jean Alexander to the Presb. of Edinburgh, and the Presbyteries in Angus and Merns. Ib.
Recom. Sir William Dick to the Committee of Estates, Ib
Order for Mr. Alexander Levingston to the General Artilleries Regiment. Ib.
Recom. Mr. Thomas Crawfoord to revise Mr. Robert Boyds Works. Ib.
Recom. to Presb. to put in execution the former Acts concerning Bursars, and to make account of their diligence to the next Assembly. Ib.
Admonition Presb. Hamiltoun for proceeding against Alexander Taes, Ib.
Relaxation of Mr. John Hay from the sentence of suspension. Ib.
Committee to represent the Bill concerning the insolencies in the Borders, to the Councill and Committee. Sess. 12.
Recom. Ministers of Argyle to the Committees. Ib.
Commiss. concerning the particulars betwixt John Wilkie of Fouldoum and Mr. Thomas Ramsay Minister there. Ib.
Advice concerning the division of Basinden. Ib.
Committee to urge an answer to the desires of the Assem. concerning the election of the Magistrates of Aberdeen. Ib.
Ref. to the Commiss. of Assem. to insist upon all occasions for an answer thereunto. Ib.
Ref. to the said Commission of Assem. for planting vaking places in the Kirk and Colledge of Aberdeen. Ib.
Letters to the Committee of Newcastle, the General, Lievt. General Lesly, and General Major Middletoun. Sess. 13.

Ref.

Ref. Mr. *Edward Wright* to the Commiss. of Assem. Ib.
Renovation of the Commission of *Orkney* and *Zetland*. Ib.
Ref. concerning Witches to the Commission of Assemb. Ib.
Recom. of the Printer in *Amsterdam* his Bill concerning the Chans of this Kingdom. Ib.
Suspension of Mr. *William Wilkie* with a reference to the Commiss. of Assem. concerning his solemnation. Sess. 14.
Ref. Commiss. Assem. concerning Doctor *Balcanquals* Letters. Ib.
Ref. of the Petitions of the Earl of *Tweddale* and *Drumfreis* to the Commiss. Assem. Ib.
Act in favours of *Barbara Main*, relict of umwhile Mr. *Wil. Home* Minister. Ib.
Order for a Minister to Col. *Robert Montgomerie* Regiment. Ib.
Ref. Sir *John Smith* to Commiss. Assem. for publick affairs. Ib.
Ref. of the Petition of the Town of *Edinburgh* for two Ministers to the Commiss. Assem. Ib.
Report of the Committee concerning the Kirk of *Glenluce*, and the Assem. approbation thereof. Ib.
Act concerning such as are absolved by civil Judicatories. Ib.
Declaration concerning an Act in the Provincial Book of *Aberdeen*, touching Mr. *Nathaniel Martin*. Sess. 18.
Recom. of the valuing Stipends of *Aberdeen*, in favours of Mr. *Nathaniel Martin*. Ib.
Recom. concerning the mortifications by the Laird of *Drum* to the Commiss. for visitation of the University of *Aberdeen*. Ib.
Act concerning the distribution of the contribution for the distressed Ministers in *Argyle*, Mr. *Tho. Ireland*, and Mr. *John Cunnison*. Ib.
Report of the Committee concerning the Insolencies in the Borders. Ib.
Refer. Commiss. concerning the planting the Kirks of *Perth*. Ib.
Ref. concerning the correspondence with the Protestants in *Holland* and elsewhere. Ib.
Ref. concerning the recom. of Mr. *Blair* & *Gilbert* to a Regiment. Ib.
Recom. of Mr. *Gowin Forsyth* for maintenance to the Presb. of *Glasgow* and Province of *Glasgow* and *Air*. Ib.
Recom. of that part without the Town of *Edinburgh* called *Brissle* to *Lothian* and *Tweddale*. Ib.
Three Acts concerning D. *Strang*. Ib.
Act ratifying Mr. *Alex. Innes* his deposition, with an Ordinance to the Presb. of *Aberdeen* to proceed further against him. Ib.
Committee for presenting the Assemblies Thanks to the General Artillery. Ib.
Ref. to the Commiss. Assem. for trying of the murther committed within the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, and the Presbyteries carriage thereanent. Ib.
Ref. Mr. *Alex. Robertson* and Mr. *John Cheine*, to the Commiss. for visitation of the University of *Aberdeen*. Ib.
Ordinance for Presb. of *Hamilton* to proceed against Mr. *John Rae*. Ib.
Recom. for laying aside some old [illegible]. Ib.
Indiction of a [illegible]. Ib.
Recom. Mr. [illegible] Commitee of Estates and the Committee of money. Ib.
Ref. to the Commiss. of Assem. concerning the deyal of persons of Quality Members of the College of Justice, or others who have their residence in *Edinburgh* for their compliance with the Rebels. Ib.
A Commission for those that are to repair to the King. Ib.
The Assemblies Letter to Mr. *Alex. Henderson*. Ib.

Letter to the Earl of *Sutherland* and other Gentlemen in the *North*. Ib.
Ref. Commiss. for dispensing the annuity of 500 *l.* Sterling upon publick affairs of the Kirk. Ib.
Act to provide for the charges and all necessaries for Mr. *David Calderwood* in his publick imployments; And likewise for the great pains and charges of the Clerk. Ib.
Act concerning Mr. *Ja. Strachan*.
Ref. to the Commission to consider of Overtures for restraining any youths to go to the Colledge of *Douay*, or other corrupt Colledges. Ib.
Ref. to the Commiss. for presenting Overtures to the Parliament. Ib.

Index of the Acts of the General Assembly holden at Edinburgh, 1647, *not Printed.*

Election of Mr. *Robert Douglass* Moderator. Sess. 1.
Committee for the controverted Commissions, Sess. 2.
Committee of Reports, References and Appeals. Ib.
Commit. of Bills and Overtures. Ib.
Committee for examining the proceedings of the Commission of the preceeding Assembly for publick Affairs. Ib.
Committee for examining the Synod Books. Ib.
Commission from the Brethren in *Ireland* with the *Scots* Army there. Ib.
Committee for appointing Ministers to Preach. Ib.
Papers produced by Mr. *Robert Baillie*, and Mr. *George Gillespie*. Sess. 3.
Act concerning their Report and Approbation. Ib.
Committee for examining the Confession of Faith, *Rouse* Paraphrase, Catechisme, &c. and to receive any scruples and objections, and to report. Ib.
Act appointing some Brethren to present to the Committee of Estates, the progress of Uniformity. Ib.
Invitation of all that had objections against any thing in the Confession, to repair to the Committee. Sess. 4.
A Latine Letter from the *Helvetian* Churches to the Assembly. Ib.
Act for Printing 300. Copies of the advice of the Assembly of Divines in *Engl.* Concerning a Confession of Faith, for the use of the Members of the Assembly. Sess. 5.
Recom. to the Commission for planting of Kirks, for a provision to another Minister in *Aire*. Ib.
Ref. to the Committee for Preaching, to appoint Ministers to the Army, with addition of others to that Committee, Ib.
Appointment of Mr. *Robert Young* for *Lodovick Lesties* Regiment. Sess. 6.
Committee for considering the dangers that are either from within or without this Kirk, and the best remedies for preventing the same, and to report. Ib.
Committee concerning *John Wilkie* and Master *Tho. Ramsay*, Ib.
Remilt. *John Johnstouns* desire of relaxation from Excommunication to the provincial of *Drumfreis*. Ib.

Com-

Committee for the raking Stipends in *Dunkeld*, lb.
Recom. *Marjory Smith* for charity, lb.
Remitt. Mr. *James Rosse* a deposed Minister to Presbytery and Synod, Sess. 7.
Ref. Mr. *James Nasmith* to the Committee for appointing Ministers to the Army, lb.
Committee for considering a Process in dependence before the Presbytery of *Peebles*, concerning a scandal upon the relict of umwhile *Mark Hamiltoun*, lb.
Continuation of the Town of *Edinburghs* Bill for Mr. *John Smith*, till *Saturday*, lb.
Advice and Ordinance for prosecuting the Process against *Agnes Stewart*, relict of Umwhile *Mark Hamiltoun*. Sess. 8.
Recom. of Mr. *George Cleghorne* that he suffer no prejudice in his old Age, lb.
Transportation of Mr. *John Scot* from *Schittis* to *Glenluce*, Sess. 9.
Act refusing Mr. *Andrew Honyman's* transportation to *Crail*, lb.
Transportation of Mr. *James Hamiltoun* from *Dumfreis* to *Edinburgh*, lb.
Act concerning the planting of *Eymouth* Kirk upon the Submission of Earl *Home* and *Wedderburne*, Sess. 10.
Act concerning the tryal of Mr. *William Home*, lb.
Transportation of Mr. *John Smith* from *Brunstane* to *Edinburgh*, lb.
Act for providing a College to Mr. *Thomas Wylie*, lb.
Recom. *Thom. Burnet* to the Committee of Estates, lb.
Recom. Mr. *Martine Mackerson* to the Committee of Estates, lb.
Recom. Mr. *Neill Mackinnan* to the Committee of Estates. lb.
Act concerning the Visitation of *Kailzie* and *Lyne*, Sess. 11.
Recom. Mr. *John Hendersons* Petition to the Commission for planting of Kirks, lb.
Act for Excommunicating of *William Forbes* of *Skellater*, his committing a late murther being sufficiently evidenced. lb.
Transportation of Mr. *Walter Comrie* to *Dunkeld*. lb.
Act for conference with *James Urquhart* of old *Craigs*, desiring to be relaxed from Excommunication, lb.
Act appointing Mr. *John Lothian* to be relaxed from the sentence of Suspension. lb.
Recom. Petition of the Presbytery of *Wigtoun*, for erecting a Kirk for *Penninghame* and *Monigaffe*, To the Commission of Parliament for planting of Kirks. lb.
Committee for the matter betwixt *John Wilkie* of *Foulden*, and Mr. *Thomas Ramsay*, lb.
Act appointing the Committee of Bills, to divide the Petitions for charity amongst Presbyteries and Provinces, Sess. 12.
Act appointing the Committee concerning Dr. *Strang* to meet. lb.
Act refusing Mr. *John Livingstons* transportation to *Glasgow*. lb.
Refer. to the Committee of dangers, to give opinion in the question concerning the carriages of our Commissioners at *London* in the case propounded. lb.
Ref. to the committee of dangers, concerning choosing a Moderator, and censure of absents from the Assembly, Sess. 13.
Ref. *James Urquhart* of old *Craigs*, concerning his relaxation from Excommunication, to the Provincial of *Murray*, lb.
Committee appointed to confer in some particulars, concerning Ministers provisions with my Lord Advocate. lb.
Committee concerning the particulars

culars of Master *Eleazar Gilberts* petition, Ib.
Ref. *Gilbert Ogilvie* of *Craige*, Major *John Ogilvie*, and *Patrick Ogilvie* of *Brigend* of *Lentrathane*, to the Presbytery of *Meegill*. Ib.
Instruction with a Letter to the Commissioners at *London*. *Ib.*
Appointment of some to speak Earl *Bacleuch*, concerning the Kirk of *Borthwick*. *Ib.*
Ref. concerning Mr. *Zachary Boyds* labours to the Committee for the Confession of Faith. *Ib.*
Committee to consider of Ministers for *Ireland*. *Ib.*
Act continuing the Declaration for *England*, to be again read and farther considered. Sess. 14.
Committee for hearing the Objections of the persons appointed for *Ireland*. Ib.
Recom. to Presbyteries for encouraging Expectants to embrace a calling from *Ireland*. Ib.
Ref. to the Committee for Preaching, to hear the reasons alledged by some Ministers why they should not go to the Army. Ib.
Act refusing Master *John Robertsons* Petition for opening his mouth. Ib.
Approbation of the Declaration for *England*. Sess. 15.
Act for authorizing the Commissioners at *London*, to present the Declaration to the Parliament of *England*, City of *London*, and Synode of Divines, and to crave an answer to the Paper of the 25 *December*. Ib.
Act appointing some Brethren to present the Declaration for *England* to the Committee of Estates, and to crave their Lordships concurrance in the like desires. *Ib.*
Act continuing the Directions for Private and Family Worship, to be farther Considered and again read, with an Invitation to all that had any scruples to propone them to the Committee of dangers. *Ib.*
Act for joyning the Committee for the Confession of Faith, to the Committee for dangers together to be one Committee, and their place of meeting to be the old Session-house. *Ib.*
Invitation of all that had any scruples or objections concerning any Article in the Confession, to propone the same to the Committee. *Ib.*
Report of the Committee touching the particulars in *Mr. Gilberts* Petition, with an appointment for drawing a Letter to those of the *Scottish* Nation in *Poland*, &c. *Ib.*
Appoint. for drawing a Letter to Lieutenant General *David Lesly*. Sess. 16.
Appoint. of Ministers for *Ireland*, *Ib*
Letter to Major General *Monro*. *Ib.*
Continuation of the Directions for Worship, to be again read and considered upon *Tuesday*, and all invited to address themselves to the Committee who had doubts or objections. *Ib.*
Committee for thinking on Overtures for planting the Kirks in the *Highlands*, and advancing Piety and Learning there. *Ib.*
Recom. to the Ministers of *Edinburgh* for their assistance to Ministers before the Commission for planting of Kirks. *Ib.*
Committee to confer with the Lord Theasurer, concerning the Kings gift of Patronage of *Lanark*, and to advise with the Committee for dangers upon the Kirks interest therein. *Ib.*
Recom. of the Petition of the Presbyteries of *Deir*, *Eston*, and *Turref*, to the Commission for planting of Kirks. *Ib.*
Recom. Mr. *Neil Mackinnan* and *Mar-*

Martin Mackferſon, to be ſupported out of the vaking Stipends in the *Merſ*, *Ib.*

Ref. to the Commiſſion for publick affairs for the planting of *Drumfreis*, with a recommendation to the Theaſurer for a preſentation. *Ib.*

Recom. to the Commiſſion of Eſtates, concerning the houſe of *Dalgetie*, *Ib.*

Act appointing Mr. *Gabriel Maxwell* for the Lieutenant General. Mr. *James Naſmith* for General Major *Holburns* Regiment, Mr *George Pittillo* for the General Artilleries Regiment. Mr. *George Bennet* for the Troops of Horſe with the General Lieutenant, and Mr. *John Lothian* for the Squadron of Horſe with General Major *Middletoun*.

Remit. Mr. *Francis Omey* to the Presbytery and Synode, Seſſ. 17.

Ordinance for admiſſion of Mr. *John Baillie* to the Kirk of *Cambuſlang*, *Ib.*

Committee to confer with Earl of *Eglingtoun*, concerning his petition touching planting the Kirk of *Egliſham*. *Ib.*

Recom. to the Committee of Eſtates, of the petition of *Aberdeen* concerning a Jeſuit there. *Ib.*

Remit. Mr. *Matthew Ramſay* to the Presbytery of *Hamiltoun* for opening his mouth, *Ib.*

Ref. and Commiſſion concerning the Kirk of *Lyndoun*. Ib.

Committee for reviſing the Collectors counts, and to report. Ib.

Report of the Brethren ſent to the Committee of Eſtates, concerning the houſe of *Dalgety*, and the Jeſuit in *Aberdene*, Ib.

Advice to the Presbytery of *Stranraver*, concerning their proceeding in the trial of the ſcandal upon *Ardwell*. *Ib.*

Ref. to the Committee of dangers, to think upon ſome Overtures for commodious planting, dividing, and uniting of Kirks, and to report. Seſſ. 18.

Recom. of ſome Perſons for charity to Presb. and Provinces, Ib.

Recom. of the petition concerning *Glencorſe* to the Lord Theſaurer, and the Lords of Exchequer. Ib.

Ref. Sir *Lanchlen Macklen* to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Ib.

Recom. to the Committee of Eſtates, of the petition of Maiſter *Adam Barcley*, Ib.

Recom. of the Petition of Mr. *Patrick Lindſay* to the Committee of Eſtates, and to the charity of the Presbyteries within the Province of *Aberdein*. Ib.

Recom. to the Presbytery of *Stranraver* and the Lord Advocate, concerning the Kirk of *Glenluce*. Ib.

Addition of the Lord Marquels of *Argile* to the Commitee for the dangers. Ib.

Appointment of the Committee concerning Doctor *Strang*, to make report and to receive any objections that any had againſt his dictates, Ib.

Warrand for Mr. *Samuel Rutherfords* return, Seſſ. 19.

A Letter to General Lieutenant *David Leſlie*. *ib.*

Invitation of all to propone their doubts or objections againſt any head or Article in the Confeſſion of Faith, to the Committee. *ib*

Recom. to the Commiſſion, for viſitation of the Univerſity of *St. Andrews*, for Mr. *Samuel Rutherford* to be Principal of the new Colledge there, *ib.*

Approbation of the report concerning planting of *Egliſhame*, Seſſ. 20.

Recom. Mr. *Robert Lindſayes* wife, and Mr. *Jam. Kirk* to Provinces *ib.*

Appointment of ſome Brethren to viſit the Idolatrous Monuments brought

brought from the late Marquels of *Huntlies* houſe, *Ib.*
Act refuſing the petition for Mr. *John Annans* tranſportation to *Edinburgh*, Ib.
Act concerning the Dyet of Mr. *James Hamiltoun* and Mr. *John Smiths* coming to *Edinburgh*, Ib.
Recom. to the Town of *Edinburgh* to plant all their Kirks with two Miniſters with diligence, *Ib.*
Quere propouned by the Commiſſioners of the Presbytery of *Chirnſide*, with the Aſſemblies advice thereanent, *Ib.*
Recom. of petitions for charity, *Ib.*
Appoint. of Mr. *John Forbes* for Colonel *Scots* Regiment, and Mr. *Re. Cowdoun* to *Pitſcottie*. Seſſ. 21.
Nomination of a liſt for a Kirk of *Gordon*, Ib.
Ref. concerning Mr. *David Leith* Ib.
Recom. concerning the contribution for the diſtreſſed people in *Argyle*, Ib.
Approbation of the report of the Committee for the valuing Stipends in *Dunkeld*, Seſſ. 22.
Recom. Mr. *Robert Brounlies* wife to the Commit. of Eſtates. *Ib.*
Commiſſion for planting the Kirk of *Linlithgow*. Ib.
Declaration that ſome votes of the Commiſſion of the preceding Aſſembly upon the 21 of *Auguſt* 1646. and an Act of the 22. of the ſame month, are not to be examined by the Aſſembly, *Ib.*
Committee for the trial of ſome ſpeeches ſpoken by ſome of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld* concerning the Commiſſion, *Ib.*
Ref. concerning Mr. *Will. Hay*. Ib.
Act concerning the committing of the plantation of the Kirk of *Glaſgow*, Ib.
Ref. to the Commiſſion for publick Affairs of the Earl of *Callenders* petition, concerning the adjoyning *Falkirk*, *Slamwaves*, and *Morroning ſide* to the Presbytery of *Sterling*, with power to hear parties viſit, and report. Seſſ. 25.
Conference appointed with the Earl of *Abercorne*, Ib.
Ref. to the Commiſſion for publick affairs, for planting in *Ayre* a Collegue to Mr. *William Adair*, Ib
Report concerning Doctor *Strangs* dictats, *Ib.*
Act appointing the Clerk to redeliver Doctor *Strangs* dictats unto him, *Ib.*
Ref. concerning Mr. *John Mackenzie*, Seſſ. 24.
Approbation of the Collectors accounts, *Ib.*
Ref. to the Miniſters of *Edinburgh*, to take courſe with the Monuments of Idolatry brought from the *North*, Ib.
Recom. of the petition for a Miniſter to *Chanrie* of *Roſſe* to the Commiſſ. for planting of Kirks *Ib.*
Recom. Mr. *Alexander Petrie*, Ib.
Recom. Mr. *Eleazar Gilbert*, Ib.
Recom. Mr. *William Douglas* to the Committee of Eſtates, *Ib.*
Recom. Mr. *George Sharpe* to the Committee of Eſtates for reparation of his loſſes, *Ib.*
Ref. complyers in *Murray* to the Provincial, *Ib.*
Recom. to the Commiſſion for planting of Kirks, concerning proviſions to Miniſters in the Preſbytery of *Kirkcudbright*, Seſſ. 25.
Act appointing conference with Earl *Abercorne*, until the laſt of *March*, Ib.
Recom. to the Synod of *Murray* of the petition of *Badinoch*, concerning Mr. *John Dollar*, Ib
Recom. concerning the Miniſter of *Corrie* and *Hutton*, Ib.
Recom. to the Commiſſion for planting of Kirks, concerning the adjoyning ſome lands to the Pariſh of *Monſwall*. Ib.
Act for Printing the Directory for Church

Church Government, to be examined by Presbyteries against the next Assembly, and for Printing the Catechism also when it shall be perfected, *Ib.*

Act concerning the contribution for the distressed people in *Argyle*, Ib.

Recom. to Committee for dangers, to consider of a Letter for the *Scots* in *Poland*, &c. Ib.

Ref. to the Committee appointed for tryal of proceedings of the Commission of Assembly, to consider of the process of Master *John Rosse*, and to report, *Ib.*

Act concetning the tryal of the payment of the contribution for distressed people of *Argyle*, Ib.

Act concerning *Ja. Murray* Sess. 16.

Act for collecting the contribution for the Province of *Argile*, in these parts that have not yet contributed, and sending it to the receivers, *Ib.*

Recom. to the Synod of *Glasgow*, concerning a second Minister to *Dumbarton*, Ib.

Recom. to the Lords of Privy Council for punishing an injury done to a Presbytery about burying in a Kirk. *Ib.*

Act appointing a conference with some Divines, Lawyers, and Physitians; concerning witchcraft and charming, *Ib.*

Report of the tryal of the Synods Books with the Assemblies censure, *Ib.*

Appointment of some to salute the Lieutenant General now in Town and General Major *Middletown* when he comes, *Sess.* 27.

Ref. to the Commission for publick affairs to endeavour for obtaining from the Parliament, some restraint of Burials in Kirks, *Ib.*

Commission for visitation of *Lochaber*, *Badenoch*, and the Ilses, *Ib.*

Recom. to the Commission of Parliament for planting of Kirks, for providing some course for the payment of the charges of Commissioners to the General Assembly, *Ib.*

Ref. to the Commission for publick affairs, for Printing of some Papers concerning the Treaty of Uniformity, and matters handled in the Synod of Divines in *England*, Ib.

Ref. and warrand to the Commission for publick affairs, to give license for Printing, *Ib.*

Recom. to the Lords of the Exchequer, concerning the passing of gifts of the Prebendaries, *Ib.*

Report from *Robert Bryson's* Relick, concerning the Printing of *Trotbrigs* Works, *Ib.*

Warrand given to the Moderator and Clerk, and some others, to agree with *Evan Tayler* for Printing the Works of *Trochrig* upon the condition promised to *Robert Bryson*, Ib.

Ref. *John Wilkie* of *Fouldon* and Mr. *Thomas Ramsay* to the Commission for publick affairs Ib.

Act concerning the choosing of the Moderator of the General Assembly, *Ib.*

Act for changing every Assembly the rolls of the Commissioners by courses, according to the order of Provinces. *Ib.*

Commission for Visiting the University of St *Andrews*, Ib.

Commission for visiting the University of *Aberdeen*, Ib.

Commission for visiting *Orkney* and *Zetland*, Ib.

Appointment of some Brethren to speak to the Lord Thesaurer, concerning passing of gifts of Pattonage, *Ib.*

Ref. Mr. *John Rosse* at *Lunfannan*, *Sess.* 28.

Approbation of the report concern-

ing planting of Kirks in the *Highlands*, Ib.
Ref. *John Gillon* to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* for private tryal, Ib.
Renovation of the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Warrand for Mr. *James Gordon* to come to *Sterling-shire*, for drawing the Mappe thereof, *Sess. ult.*
Ref. of *Gorthie*, *Inchbrake* and *Lindsay* of *Mains*, their Petitions for relaxation from the sentence of Excommunication, to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Recom. in favours of Sir *William Dick*, Ib.
Ref. Master *James Row*, Ib.
Ref. to the Commission for publick affairs concerning the *Scots* in *Poland*, &c. Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk and Colledge of *Aberdeen* to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Ref. concerning Mr. *William Douglas*, Mr. *John Logie*, Mr. *George Hannay*, Mr. *Richard Maitland* and Mr. *Coline Mackenzie*, Ib.
Ref. and Commission concerning the tryal of Mr. *Murdo Mackenzie*, Mr. *John Duncane*, and Mr *William Cowper*, Ib.
Recom. Mr. *William Chalmers* to to Committee of Estates, Ib.
Ref. *James Graham* of *Claypots* to the Presbytery of *Dundie*. Ib.
Recom. of some persons for charity, Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Brastiland* to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Ref. concerning the planting of the Kirk of *Prestoun* to the Commission for publick Affairs, Ib.
Ref. for planting the vaking Kirk in *Glasgow* to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Ref. the Lord *Ray* his Son and some of his Friends to the Comission for publick affairs, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *Gilbert Gordon* to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib
Recom. for Mr. *George Hannayes* wife and children, Ib.
Act for presenting the Confession of Faith to the Parliament, Ib.
Act concerning the Translators of the *Dutch* Notes, Ib.
Recom. and Ref. concerning the collecting of the passages and Occurrances of these late times, to the Commis. for publick affairs, Ib
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Ancrum*, to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Renovation of the Commission for visitation of the University of *Glasgow*. Ib.
Ref Mr. *John Rosse* at *Birse*, to the Synod of *Aberdeen*. Ib.
Ref. of Mr. *Thomas Ramsay* younger, his petition to the Commission for publick affairs. Ib.
Indiction of a Thanksgiving and of a Fast. Ib.

INDEX of the Unprinted ACTS of the General Assembly held at Edinburgh. 1648.

ELection of Mr. *George Gillespie* Moderator, *Sess.* 1.
Recom. to the Magistrates of *Edinburgh*, for accomodating the Assembly-house for the Members thereof, *Sess.* 2.
Committee for the controvered Commissions, Ib.
Committee for Reference and Appeals, Ib.
Committee for Bills and Overtures, Ib. Com-

Committe for trial of the proceedings of the Commission of the preceeding Assembly. Ib.
Committee for revising the Provincial Books, Ib.
Committee for appointing Ministers to Preach during the Sitting of the Assembly, Ib.
Committee to consider the present dangers and duties of these times, and other publick matters, Ib.
Ref. to the Committee to consider of the said Elections of Commissioners from Burghs, Ib.
Act concerning the Commission from *Ireland*, Ib.
Act rejecting the Commission from the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Sess. 1.
Letter to the Laird of *Blacader*, Elder in the said Commission, to clear the Assemblies respects to him, Ib.
Act refusing the Commission from *Dunse*, Ib.
Meeting of the Commissioners from several Provinces to try the blasphemies and insolences of the Army, now forth in the late Engagement against *England*, and to report, Ib.
Act concerning Mr. *James Aitkin*, Sess. 4.
Commission for Visitation of the Presbyteries of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, Ib.
Committee for hearing the report concerning the Paraphrase of the Psalms in Meetter, Ib.
Ref. to the Committee for publick matters, to take in the reports concerning the Directory of Government, Catechisme, and CXL. Propositions, Ib.
Recom. in favours of the relicks of Doctor *Sharpe*, and Mr. R. *Brounlies* to the Commit. of Estates *Ib.*
Petition from the Army lately gone to *England*, Sess. 5.
The offers and desires of the Committee of Estates of the 17 *July* Ib.
Quere to the Committee of Estates, Ib.
Recom. to the Lord Theasurer for the Arrears of the annuity of 500 *Starl.* Ib.
Answer to the Quere from the Committee of Estates 17 *July* Ib
Return to the Committee of Estates, Ib.
Ref. Petitions from *Ireland* for Ministers to a Committee. Ib.
Modification to Mr. *David Calderwood* for his publick imployments, Sess. 6.
Modification to the Clerk of the Assembly for his service, *Ib.*
Paper from the Committee of Estates of the 18. *July*. Ib.
The Assemblies return to the said Paper, Ib.
The Committee of Estates answer to the said return, Ib.
The Assemblies Return to the said answer, Ib.
Another Paper from the Committee of Estates of the 18. *July*. Sess. 7.
Answer to the Paper last sent from the Committee of Estates, bearing a power to certain Members of the Assembly to confer with their Lordships, Ib.
Answer to Mr. *Patrick Hamilton*, denying his desire for opening his mouth, with a Recommendation in his favours, Sess. 8.
Remit. Mr. *James Rosse* to Presbytery and Synod. Ib.
Recom. to Presbytery of *Dunkeld* concerning taking Stipends, Ib.
Approbation of the Act of the Commission of the preceeding Assembly concerning the Collecting of the History of the time, Ib.
Recom. to the Clerk for Printing the publick Papers, Ib.
Recom. to the Clerk for re-printing the Confession of Faith with the Assemblies Approbation, Sess. 9.
Recom. to Mr. *Robert Douglas* for printing two of his Sermons, Ib.

Ref. concerning Major *Turner* and Lieut. Colonel *Hurrie* to the Commission for publick affairs, *Ib.*

Remit to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh* concerning the Service-books and Idolatrous Monuments, now lying in the *High-School-yard*, Ib.

Committee for considering *James Murrays* business, Ib.

Paper from the Committee of Estates of the 20 *July*, Sess. 10.

The Assemblies Answer thereto with an appointment for conference, Ib.

Order for citing *Patrick Lesly* Provost of *Aberdeen*, *Ib.*

Recom. to the Committee of Estates concerning his miscarriage. *Ib.*

Act concerning insolences and blasphemies of the Souldiers to the Commission for publick affairs, Sess. 11.

Paper from the Committee of Estates of the 22 *July* concerning the conference, and concerning *Patrick Lesly*, Sess. 12.

The Assemblies answer to the said Paper, *Ib.*

Act concerning Mr. *George Clerk*, Ib.

Act refusing Mr. *George Hutcheson* transportation to *Ayr*, Ib.

Motion verbally from the Committee for Ministers to the Army, with the Assemblies answer thereunto, *Ib.*

Act concerning *Patrick Leslies* answers, *Ib.*

Paper from the Committee of Estates of the 24 *July* Sess. 13.

Ref. of the said Paper to the Committee for publick business to consider of an answer, and report their opinions, *Ib.*

Act concerning *Patrick Lesly*, Ib.

Appointment of a letter to Mr. *How Henderson* for setling in *Dumfries* according to the sentence of transportation, *Ib.*

Ref. for planting a Collague in *Ayr* to the Commission for publick affairs, *Ib.*

Ref. of the remedies of the sins of the times, to the Committee which was appointed for trial of the Commission of the preceeding Assembly, *Ib.*

Ref. Mr. *Walter Comries* transportation to the Committee of bills, and they to report, *Ib.*

Appointment that all bills, appeals, references, reports, &c. be given in before *Wednesday* next. *Ib.*

Paper from the Committee concerning *Patrick Lesly*, Sess. 14.

The Assemblies answer thereunto, *Ib.*

Ref. *Patrick Lesly* to a Committee for conference, *Ib.*

Suspens. Mr. *Harie Cockburn* Sess. 15.

Vote sustaining the summons concerning the transportation of Mr. *John Levingstoun* to *Ancrum*, Ib.

Recom. Mr. *John Durie* to the Earl of *Hudingtoun*, Sess. 16.

Ref. Mr. *Samuel Douglas* to the visitation of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, Ib.

Ref. the dissent of the Brethren in the Provincial of *Merse* and *Teviotdale* to the said visitation, Ib.

Ref. concerning Ministers to *Ireland* to the Commission to be appointed for publick affairs, Ib.

Advice concerning discipline to be used, with the Garisons and Regiments in *Ireland*, Ib.

Letter to General Major *Monro*, Ib.

Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Brunstiland* to the Commission to be appointed for publick affairs, Sess. 17.

Recom. concerning *James Murrayes* children, Ib.

Recom. to the Commission of Parliament for planting of Kirks the adjoyning *Sutherland*, *Sutherlandhall*, &c. to *Lindean* and making it a distinct Parish, Ib.

Recom.

Recom. for keeping in the *interim* the Kirk of *Galowſheils*, Ib.
Recom. in favours of Mr. *James Meriſon* Miniſter at *Erne* and *Randell*, or his executors for the payment of a ſum of money by the next Inſtant. *Ib.*
Recom. for planting Kirks in *Badinoch* to the Commiſſion for planting of Kirks. Ib.
Recom. to the Commiſſion for publick affairs to think upon and proſecute ſome wayes for planting a Miniſtry in *Lochaber*. Ib.
Recom. to Presbyteries to ſend a more particular information of the inſolencies and miſcarriages of the ſouldiers and the evidences thereof to the Commiſſion for publick affairs, Ib.
Ref. to the Commit. of Bills to diſtribute the petitions for charity, Recom. Mr. *Robert Lindſayes* ſelick and Children, Seſſ. 18.
Recom. Mr. *Patrick Lindſayes* children, Ib.
Paper from the Committee of Eſtates of the 28 of *July*, Ib.
Recom. to Presbyteries to ſupply the places of the Brethren ſent in Commiſſion to the General Aſſembly, or that attend the meetings of the Commiſſion of the Aſſembly, Seſſ 19.
Act for conference with E of *Abercarne* until firſt of *March*, Seſſ. 20.
Committee for conſidering the Hoſpitals, and to report their condition, Ib.
Commiſſion for viſiting. *Roſſe*, *Sutherland*, *Cathnes*, *Orkney*, and *Zetland*, with a Reference concerning Mr. *James Johnſton*, Ib.
Commiſſion for viſitation of *Stirling*, and *Dunblane* Presbyteries, with a Reference for the particular concerning Mr. *Andrew Jaffray*, Ib.
Ref. to the Commiſſion for publick affairs for the trial of the Provincial Book of *Argyle*. Ib.
Act appointing the Clerk to print the Declaration with the firſt conveniency, and to ſend it to Presbyteries, *Seſſ.* 22.
Vote for removing the Commiſſioners in the Province of *Galloway* in the matter concerning Mr. *John Levingſtons* tranſportation to *Ancrum*, Ib.
Declaration in favours of the Preſbytery of *Jedburgh*, for preſerving their right and Intereſt in planting *Ancrum proprio Jure*, Ib
Tranſportation of Mr. *John Leviſton* to *Ancrum*, Ib.
Order for ſome Brethrens preſenting the Declaration to the Committee of Eſtates, Seſſ. 23.
Ref. to the Committee appointed for publick matters to conſider of the materials and draught of a Petition to the Committee of Eſtates, Ib.
Ref. for planting *Kirkaldie* to the Commiſſion for publick affairs, Seſſ. 24.
Approbation of the manner and order of the calling and ſetling a Collegue in the Kirk of *Culroſſe*, Ib.
Committee concerning Mr. *James Row*, Ib.
Committee for examining Witneſſes upon the injury done to Mr. *Robert Melvill*, Ib.
Committee for examining a ſcandalous Pamphlet falſly put forth under the name of Mr. *Alexander Henderſon*, Seſſ. 25.
The Aſſemblies Anſwer Refuſing the deſire of the Iſle of *Makghie* in *Ireland* for Mr. *John* Dick, Ib.
Vote for — *Macculloch* of *Ardwell* his purgation by oath, Ib.
Warrant for citing the perſons that injured Mr. *Robert Melvill*, Ib.
Vote concerning *Patrick Leſlie*, Seſſ. 27.
Approbation of the Excambion mentioned in the contract betwixt

twixt Sir *William Scot* and the Minister of *Merton* consented to by the Presbytery, and approven by the Synod, Ib.
Ref. of Mr. *William Home* to the Visitation of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, Ib.
Liberty for *John Gillon* to preach until the next Assembly for exercise of his gift, Ib.
Ref. concerning the Quere from the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, touching the marriage of a young Gentlewoman minor without consent of her Tutors, to a Committee, Ib
Act refusing the desire of Mr. *James Row* for opening his mouth, Ib.
Remit the appeal of the Parishioners of *Schots*, concerning the admission of Mr. *Francis Kincaid* to the Presbytery and Synod respectively of consent, Ib.
Act refusing the transporting of Doctor *Colvill* to the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, *Sess.* 29.
Ref. Mr. *William Sanders* to the Commission for planting of Kirks, Ib.
Ref. dissent in the Presbytery of *Chirnside* to the visitation of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, Sess. 30.
Act for conference with the Lady *Mordington*. Ib.
Ref. to the Visitation of *Dunse* for tryal of that murther committed in the Lord *Mordingtons* house,
Appointment of Mr. *Alexander Levingston* to go to *Ireland* first, next Mr. *Henry Semple*, Mr. *Andrew Lawder* in the third place, and Mr. *John Dick* the last three Months, Ib.
Recom. Some Brethren to speak again the Lord Thesurer for payment of by gones of the annuity of 500 l. *Sterling*, Ib.
Vote for laying aside the question concerning Mr. *John Lawes* appeal. Ib.
Ref. to a Committee to consider of some Overtures concerning Papists and their Children and Excommunicate persons and to report, Ib.
Recom. to the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, concerning *Mordingtons* Family. Ib.
Act concerning *Patrick Leslies* acknowledgment and promise of better behaviour, with a Reference to the Commission for publick affairs if he keep not his promise, *Sess.* 31.
Committee for considering the Petition of the great Session of *Edinburgh* for Ministers, and to report. Ib.
Continuation of the examination of the Directory of Government, and the CXI. Propositions until the next Assembly, *Sess.* 32.
Recom. to Universities to bring to the next Assembly the grounds and evidences of their Commissions to Assemblies, Ib.
Commission for Visitation of *Glasgow*. Ib.
Commission for Visitation of *Aberdeen*, Ib.
Commission for Visitation of *Edinburgh*. Ib.
Letter to the Officers of the Army now in *England* in Answer to their Letter and Petition to the Assembly for Ministers, *Ib.*
Act reponing Mr. *William Dowglas Ib.*
Act reponing Mr. *John Logie*, *Ib.*
Recom. certain persons for charity, *Ib.*
Act for delaying the Communion, *Ib.*
Recom. for repairing of Kirks, and founding of Schools in the Presbytery of *Sky*, Sess. 33.
Continuation of Mr. *Andrew Ramsay* until the morne, *Ib.*
Suspension of Mr. *Andrew Ramsay*, until the next General Assembly, *Sess.* 34. Ref.

Ref. Mr. *William Colvill* to a conference. and they to report, *Ib.*
Citation of Mr. *William Colvill apud acta* to answer for not reading the Causes of the late Fast, *Ib.*
Ref. Doctor *John Baron* to a conference, *Ib.*
Recom. Mr. *George Clerk* to the Presbyteries within *Fife*, *Angus*, and *Merns*. and *Aberdeen*. Sess 35.
Commission for Visitation of the University of St. *Andrews*. Ib.
Act for visiting Hospitals and Mortifications, *Ib.*
Recom. to the Provincial of *Argyle* to visit the Presbytery of *Sky*, Ib.
Advise to the Presbyterie to depose Mr. *William Edmiston* with a Recommendation to the Justice to proceed against him for Adultery. Ib.
Recom. to the Presbyterie of *Sky* to censure Profanation of the Sabbath. Ib.
Approbation of the report for planting of the Kirks of *Edinburgh*. *Sess. XXXVI.*
Committee for naming a List of six Ministers for *Edinburgh*. *Ib.*
Vote concerning Mr. *William Colvill*, answering presently for not reading the Causes of the Fast. Ib.
Continuation of Mr. *William Colvils* untill the morn. Ib.
Continuation of Doctor *Baron* untill the morn. Ib.
Continuation of the 20. S. payed out of every Kirk for dispatches. Ib.
Suspension of Mr. *William Colvill*. *Sess. XXXVII.*
Suspension of Doctor *Baron* with a Reference to the Visitation of the Universitie of St. *Andrews* and Commission for publick affairs respectively. Ib.
Recom. of the Minister of *Cameron* to the Commission of Parliament for planting of Kirks. *Sess. XXXVIII.*
Recommendation to Master *James Hamiltoun* and Master *James Guthrie* to draw in Articles the duties of Elders, and a forme of Visitation of Families, and to prepare a report to the next Assembly. Ib.
Recom to Mr. *David Calderwood* to draw a draught of a form of visitation of particular Congregations, and to prepare a report to the next Assembly. Ib
Recom. to Mr. *John Smith* and the Clerk, to draw out all the Acts of Parliament and Assembly, for Kirk Discipline and Penalties for scandalous Sins, and to report to the next Assembly. Ib.
List of six Ministers to *Edinburgh*. Ib.
Ref. to the Commission for publick affairs to plant four Ministers out of the said List in the Kirks of *Edinburgh*. Ib.
Declaration of the unsatisfactorines of the Observations of the Committee of Estates upon the Assemblies Declaration, with a Reference to the Commission for publick affairs, to put forth an Answer thereto *Sess.* 39.
Appointment of the first dyet of Citations in the matter of transportations not to be before the last *Wednesday* of *October*, Ib.
The Assemblies Answer to a Quere from the Presbytery of *Elgin*, concerning the transporting from the *Highlands* a Minister to the *Lowlands*, Sess 40.
Letter to their Brethren in *Ireland*, Ib.
Letter to the Lord Chancellor, Ib.
Indiction of a Fast on the second Sabbath of *September*, with the causes thereof. Ib.
Recom. concerning *Mr. Hew Henderson*, Ib.
Recom for the people in *Libberton* to repair to the Kirk of *Quadquen*, Ib.

Recom.

Recom. to the Parliament for dissolution of the benefice of *Kinkell*, lb.
Act for proceeding against Captain *Maxwell* and *John Somervail* and Coronet *Weir*, lb.
Recom for planting in *Innerness* another Minister that hath the *Irish* tongue, *lb.*
Recom. for planting a Kirk in *Gladsmore*, and that some Brethren speak to the E. *Hadington* that by his pretenee to the Patronage he do not obstruct so good a work, *lb.*
Remit. Mr *John Law* to the Provincial of *Glasgow*, lb.
Ref. concerning Mr. *James Aitkin* to the visitation of *Ross* and *Caithnes*, *&c.* lb.
Ref. Mr. *Donald Ross* Minister at *Lochbroom* to the said visitation, *lb*
Ref. Mr. *John Duncan* to the said Visitation, *lb.*
Recom. to the Presbytery of *Dingwall* concerning Mr. *Murdo Mackenzie* late Minister at *Suddie*, lb.
Act declaring Mr. *Murdo Mackenzie* late Minister at *Dingwall* uncapable for ever of the Ministry. with a Recommendation to the Presbytery to proceed against him with Excommunication, *lb.*
Deposition Mr. *William Cooper* School-master at *Chanrie* from that charge, *lb.*
Continuation of the matter concerning Mr. *John Rosse* at *Lunfaman*, to the next Assembly, *Sess. Ult.*
Act Ordaining the Presbytery of *Elgin* to proceed against Mr *Thomas Gilzean* and *John Gordon*, lb.
Ref. Mr. *Francis Omey* to the Provincial of *Perth*, lb.
Refusal of Mr. *George Hanneys* desire, and his censure for his miscarriage. *lb.*
Recom. in favours of his wife and children. *lb.*
Recom. concerning the Kirk of *Mordington*, to the visitation of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, lb.
Recom. to the Provinces of *Aberdeen*, *Angus* and *Murray* to supply the vaking Kirks in *Badenoch*, *Lochaber*, *&c.* respectively in their own bounds, lb.
Ref. of Sir *Lachlan Mackean* to the Commission for publick affairs, lb.
Ordinance for the Presbytery of *Sky* to proceed with Excommunication against Mr. *Lachlan Fraser*. lb.
Ref. Concerning the particulars given in by Mr. *James Moreson* against the Presbytery of *Kirkwall* to the visitation of *Rosse* and *Caithnes*, lb.
Renovation of the Commission of the preceeding Assembly in *Sess.* 26 concerning Witchcraft. lb.
Recommendation Mr. *Alexander Mackean* to Presbyteries and Universities for a Burlar, and particularly to the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, lb.
Act concerning the tryal of Mr. *William Home* and calling of Witnesses, *lb.*
Commission to *Mr. John Pringill* and Mr *John Strachan* to examine Witnesses in that matter, *lb.*
Recom. to the Commissioners of the Presbytery of *Glasrow* for sending to the Clerk an exact report of the condition of their Kirks, with their provisions, the extent of Parishes, and number of Parishioners, *lb.*
Act for intimating the Visitation of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, lb.
Recommendation Mr *William Douglas* to the Committee of Estates lb.

INDEX of the Unprinted ACTS of the Assembly. 1649.

Election of Mr. Robert Douglas Moderator, Sess. 1.

Act concerning the Commission from Ireland, Ibid.

Committee for Refers and Appeals, Sess. 2.

Committee for Bills and Overtures, Ibid.

Committee for publick business, Ib.

Committee for tryall of the Synod Books, Ib.

Committee for the tryall of the proceedings of the Commissioners of the Generall Assembly, Ib.

Renovation of the Commission for visiting the University of Saint Andrews. Ib.

Recom. Gedeon Morise to the Committee of Estates. Ib.

Order for speaking the Earle of Abercorne for payment of the begone stipends of Kilpatrick, Ib.

Recom. business of Ireland to the Committee for publick business. Sess. 3.

Continuation of Generall Major Middleton to the 5 of July, Ib.

Committee for the Psalmes. Ib.

Ref. of the Protestation of Mr. James Morison to the Committee of Refers, Ib.

Act Concerning the papers committed by the Parliament for correspondence, Sess. 4.

Continuation of particular References from the Commission of the General Assemby until the report thereof be brought in from the Committee of Refers. Ib.

Committee for considering the Earle of Eglintoun Bill concerning Mr. James Ferguson, Ib.

Committee for conference with the Committee of dispatches, Ib.

Committee for conference with Mr. Walter Comrie to satisfie him in his transportation to Limeraray, Ib.

Continuation of the Lord Ogilvy to the 17 of that instant, Sess. 5.

Continuation of G. M. Middleton untill fryday next, Ib.

Letter to the Brethren of the Presbytrie of Carrickfergus, Ib.

Continuation of the Commission for visitation of the University of Glasgow, Ib.

Ratification of the act of the Presbytery of St. Andrews concerning the agreement betwixt the Laird of Anstruther and the Parochiners. Ib.

Act recommending to the Brethren to make out the descriptions of these parts of the Kingdom not yet described. Ib.

Remitt, Elizabeth Armestrange to the Provinte of Drumfries, Ib.

Act for a Minister to Colonel Gilbert Ker his Regiment. Sess. 6.

Recom. Mr. Robert Lamesone to the Parliament, Ib.

Letter from Rivet, Ib.

Order for presenting to the Parliament the report of the Commissioners sent to his Majestie, and for printing thereof, Ib.

Committee for revising a Tract of Chronologie, Sess. 7.

Committee for considering the Petition of the Town of Edinburgh for Ministers and Professors, Ib.

Approbation of the act of transportation concerning Mr. Walter Comrie, Ib.

Committee for correcting the paraphrase the Psalmes, Ib.

Ref. to the Committee of publick busines, to consider the petitions given in by the Engagers, and repon, Sess. 8.
Committee for appointing Ministers to preach, Ib.
Recom. concerning the Minister of *Glencorse* to the parliament and Exchequer, Ib.
Approbation of the sentence of desition against M. *Haris Guthrie* notwithstanding of his appeal, Sess. 9.
Act appoin. ing inmonds to be direct against M. *Haris Guthrie*, Ib.
Approbation of the Depositions of Mr. *John Allane* Mr *Andrew Ieffray* and Mr. *Haris Schaw*, Ib.
Approbation of the depositions of Mr. *Alexander Monroe*, Mr. *David Monroe* and Mr. *Thomas Rosse*, Ib.
Approbation of the Suspensions of Mr. *Donald Ross*, Mr *William Rosse*, Mr. *John Hosack*, with the Ref. concerning Mr *David Ross*, Mr. *Robert Williamson*, Mr *Walter Stewart*, Mr. *George Monroe* and Mr. *Andrew Anderson* to the next visitation, Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *Patrick Graham* somtime Minister at *Helme*, Ib.
Committee for conference with the Officers that were upon the Engagement, Sess. 10.
Recom. Mr. *Alexander Smith* for stipend to the Parliament, Sess. 11.
Deposition Mr. *James Aitkin*, Ib.
Admonition to the visitation of Ross, Sess. 12.
Act for laying aside the Commission from the Presbytrie of *Orkney*, Ib.
Order for General Major *Midleton* appearing with certification, Ib.
Order for citation of Mr. *Andrew Ramsay* and Mr. *William Colvill*, Sess. 13.
Ref. Mr. *Edward Wright* and Mr. *Andro Keir* to their Presbytries, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *George Haliburton* and Mr. *Archibald Drummond* to the visitation of *Stirling* and *Dumblane*, Ib.
Ref. to the Commission for publick affaires concerning the providing a Collegue to the Minister of *Air* Sess. 14.
Order for citing of witnesses in the matter of Mr. *Thomas Ramsay* elder, Ib.
Reposition of Mr. *William Cowper* to the office of Schoolmaster in *Channerie*, Sess. 15.
Approbation of the Deposition of Mr. *James Lundie*, Ib.
Act and Ref. concerning Mr. *Walter Swinton*, Ib.
Ref. concerning Mr. *Patrick Smith*, and approbation of his suspension, Ib.
Act and Ref. concerning Mr. *John Home* for farther tryall, Ib.
Approbation of the suspension concerning Mr. *James Edgar* and Ref. concerning him, Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *Andro Rollock*, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *William Sinclair* to the visitation of *Dunse*, Ib.
Ref. concerning M. *William Home*, Ib.
Approbation of the diligence of the visiters of *Dunse* and *Chirnesid*, Ib.
Committee to meet with the Committee of Parliament for considering and revising the proceedings of the visitation of Saint *Andrews*, Ib.
Continuation of the business concerning Mr. *James Durhames* transportation till the morne, Sess. 16.
Recom. for incarcerating one delated for witchcraft, Sess. 17.
Committee for conference with the Lord *Ogilby*, Ib.

Recom.

Recom. officers come from *Ireland*, Ib.
Committee for conference with the Earle of *Galloway*, Ib.
Recom. *Helen Gordoun* to the Parliament, Ib.
Answer to the Petition given in for the Earles of *Dunfermling* and *Lauderdalie*, Ib.
Recom. of the Relick of umquhile D. *Sharpe* to the Parliament, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *John Logie* to the Synod, Sess. 18.
Committee for presenting overtures and desires to the Parliament, concerning the Moss troopers, Ib.
Committee for considering Mr. *Alexander Smiths* condition, Ib.
Ref. Liev. Col. *Ker* to his Presbytrie, Ib.
Ref. concerning *Pitfaddels* younger, *Urquhart* of Old Craig and *Thomas Menzies* to the visitation of *Angus* and *Mearns*, Ib.
Ref. Sir *John Weymes* of *Bogie* to his Presbyterie, Ib.
Ref. Sir *John Mukenzie* and Lieutenant Colonel *David Weymes* to their Presbyterie, Ib.
Ref. *Thomas Rutherfurd* to his Presbytrie, Ib.
Ref. Liev. *Will. Sutherland* to his Presbytry, Ib.
Ref. *Andrew Wardlaw* to the Presbytery of *Kirkcadie*, Ib.
Ref. certain persons accessory to the late unlawful engagment to their Presbytries.
Ref. *Arguſtine Hoſeman* to the Presbytrie of *Edinburgh*, Ib.
Ref. *Mary Stuart* to the Presb. of *Edinb.*
Ref. Mr. *Edward Wright* M. *Andrew. Kesr* and M. *Robert Keyte* to the Presbyterie of *Linlithgow*, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *James Guthrie* in *Angus*, Mr. *Tho: Paterſon* and *Silvester Lamie* to the visitation of *Angus*, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *George Halyburton* and Mr. *Arch. Drummond* to the visitation of *Stirling* and *Dumblane*, Ib.
Recom. the division of *Libberton* and *Quodqhen* to the Presbytrie of *Biggar*, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *John Crichton* to the Presbytrie of *Glaſgow* and *Paiſlay*, Ib.
Ref. the Laird of *Kelbead* to his Presbyterie, Seſ. 19.
Ref. the Laird of *Innes* younger to the Presbytrie of *Taine*, Ib.
Commiſſion to the Presbyterie of *Kelſo* for examining *Margery Ker* Ib.
Recom. to the Parliament of the Petition of the Commiſſioners of *Argyle* Seſ. 20.
Act appointing ſome brethren to aſſiſt *John Greirſon* in diſcuſſing his ſuſpenſion, Ib.
The Aſſemblies addition and their judgement concerning the Petitions which were to have been preſented to the laſt G. Aſſembly, Ib.
Act declaring Mr. *Alexander Smith* to be tranſportable, Ib.
Committee for the collectors accompts and *Alex. Blairs* bill. Ib.
Act refuſing the tranſportation of Mr. *James Durham* to *Edinb.* Ib.
Ref. E. of *Galloway* to his Presbyterie, Ib.
Ref. Major *Alexander Forbes* to the Presbyterie of *Kincardin*, Ib.
Ref. Col. *David Barkley* to the Commiſſion for publick affairs, Seſſ. 21.
Committee for conſidering the matter concerning the tranſportation of Mr. *Neill Cameron*, Ib.
Report from the Committee of appeals concerning Mr. *John Hay* his taking up of his appellation. Ib.
Depoſition Mr. *Alexander Keyth*, Ib
Ref. E. of *Queenſberie* to his Presbytrie, Seſ. 22.
Committee to conſer with Mr. *Patrick*

trick Hamiltoun, Ib.
Act concerning Mr. *Patrick Hamiltoun*, Ib.
Recom. for assisting the petition of the people of *Athole* for dividing Paroches and planting of Kirks, Ib.
Committee for preparing a report in the matter concerning G. M. *Middleton*, Sess. 23.
Act for citing the E. of *Abercorne*, Ib.
Committee for conference with Mr. *Hary Guthrie*, Sess. 25.
Approbation of the report of the Committee appointed to revise the proceedings of the visitation of the university of Saint *Andrews*, Ib.
Ref. D. *Barron* and Mr. *Thomas Gleges* to the Presbyterie of St. *Andrews*, Ib.
Ref Mr. *Thomas Ross* to the Presb. of *Dingwall*, Ib.
Warrand for printing a Tract of Chronologie, Ib.
Recom. of the Petition to the Parliament for erecting the Kirks of *Fairnie*, Ib.
Recome of the Petition of D. *Sharpe* Relick to the Parliament, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *Harie Cockburne* to his Presbyterie, Ib.
Order from citing of Mr. *Andrew Ramsay* and Mr. *William Colvill*, Ib.
Act for visiting the Hospitalls and Mortifications, Ib.
Recom. for changing the manse of Mr. *Charles Archibald* Minister at to a more commodious place, Sess. 25.
Recom. of the petition of Mr. *Robert Scot* Minister at *Ettleston* to the Commission for planting of Kirks, Ib.
Recom. concerning the disuniting of the paroch of *Abirchirdar*, Ib.
Ref. for the matter concerning the transportation of *Mr. Neill Cameron*, Ib.
Act sustaining the Appeal of the Parochiners of *Northerwick* with an ordar for citing the Ministar and parochiners of *Hars* for answer in the cause, Ib.
Ref. Estle of *Abercorne* to the Presbyterie of *Paisley*, Ib.
Continuation of the matter concerning Mr. *Andrew Ramsay* till the morne, Ib.
Continuation of Mr. *William Colvil* till the Morn. Ib.
Recom. of the petition of the town of *Cowper* to the Commission for planting of Kirks. Sess. 26.
Recom. the Officers come from *Ireland* to the honorable Estates of Parliament, Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *John Graham* sometime Minister at *Auchterardor*. Ib.
Approbation of the sentence of Deposition of Mr. *David Drummond* sometime Minister at *Lithgow*, Ib.
Recom. *Mr. John Nairne*, Ib.
Act for giving in the appeals and References to the Assembly, Ib.
Approbation of the report concerning the Collectors accompts, Sess. 27.
Act in favours of *Alex. Blaire*, Ib.
Act for giving up Mr. *Hary Guthrie's* appeal upon his desire to cancel the same, Ib.
Continuation of Mr. *Andrew Ramsayer* business till the morne, Ib.
Deposition of Mr. *William Colvill*, Ib.
Intimation if any doubt upon the Declaration, to come to the committee, Ib.
Order for writing a letter to Mr. *Theodor Haack* for hasting forth the Dutch Annotations upon the Bible, Sess. 28.
Deposition Mr. *Andrew Ramsay*, Ib.
Commission for visitation of the Universty of *Aberdeen*, Sess. 29.
Recom. Mr. *Gilbert Marshel* for a competent maintenance, to the Commission for planting of Kirks Ib.

Recom. Mr. George Idork for a charitable supplie, Ib.
Commission for visitation of the university of Saint Andrews, Ib.
Ref. to the Commission for publick affairs for planting the place of the preavest of the old colledge of Saint Andrews, Ib.
Committee for examining witnesses in the matter concerning Mr. Tho: Ramsay, with an order for citing witnesses not appearing, Ib.
Act in favours of Mr. William Dowglas, Sess. 30.
Act appointing Ministers to preach in Edinburgh during the siting of the Assembly, Ib.
Ref. Mr. James Affleck to the visitation of Angus and Merns, Ib.
Committee for considering the petition of the Town of Stirling, Ib.
Act in favours of Mr. Thomas Ireland Minister at Weyme, Ib.
Act permitting John Gillon to exercise his gift publickly, Ib.
Commission for visiting the Colledge of Edinburgh, Ib.
Recom. to the Parliament for reparation of the losses of Mr. Alexander Ferreis Mr. Robert Jameson and Mr. John Keyth, Sess. 31.
Ref. Mr. Richard Maitland to the visitation of the universitie of Aberdeene, Ib.
Act in the matter concerning the Kirk of Dairsay, Sess. 32.
Remitt. the matter concerning James Ross Banneil to the Presbyterie, Ib.
Act exeeming the Presbyterie of Dunkeld from payment of the fortie shillings for the highland boyes, Ib.
Ref. John Maxwell younger of Calderwood to the Presb. of Hamilton, Ib.
Ref. of the Earle of Athols bill for planting the Kirk of Dunkeld to the visitation of the Presbyterie of Dunkeld, Ib.
Commission for visitation of Ross Sutherland and Caithnes, Ib.
Commission for visitation of Stirling and Dumblane, Ib.
Commission for visitation of Angus and Merns, Ib.
Commission for visitation of Dunse and, Chirnsyde, Ib.
Continuation of the matter concerning the transportation of Mr. John Stirling to Northberwick till the morne, Sess. 33.
Approbation of the sentence of deposition of Mr. William Wilkie, Sess. 34.
Suspension of Mr. Robert Balcanquell with Ref. to the Commiss. for publick affaires. Ib.
Recom. Helene Ersken to the Parliament for charitable supplie, Ib.
Reposition of M. Marten Makilwrae, with a Recommendation to the Synod of Argyle to settle him in some charge in the Ministery, Ib.
Ref. my Lord Cochrane to the Commission for publick affairse, Sess. 35.
Ref. of the petition of James Sanders to the visitation of hospitals, Ib.
Act in favours of Violet Dauling spouse to Mr. George Hannay, Ib.
Act refusing the transportation of Mr. John Stirling to Northberwick, Ib.
Ref. to the Commission for publick affaires for planting the Kirk of Northberwick, Ib.
Committee for conference with the Earl of Linlithgow, Sess. 36.
Ref. of the Articles of election of Ministers to the Committee for publick business with intimation to all that have objection, to come there, Ib.
Act in favours of Mary Hay spouse to Mr. Richard Maitland, Ib.
Ref. Mr. Alexander Monroe to the visitation of Ross, Ib.

Recom.

Recom. for Mr. *Alexander Monroe* his three hundred marks of augmentation, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *Thomas Ramsay* to the visitation of *Dunse* and *Chirnside*, with continuation of his suspension in the meane time, Ib.
Commission for visitation of the Kirks in the Highland, Ib.
Commission for visitation of *Dunkeld*, Ib.
Recomen. *Ianet Andrew* to the Parliament, Ib.
Recom. Mr. *John Rosse* to the Presbytery of *Kincardin* for supplie out of the vacand stipends, Ib.
Order for presenting the Declaration to the Parliament and for desiring that the Acts given in may be passed, Ib.
Act concerning *Kircurds* passing from his appeal, and a recommendation to the Presbyterie of *Peebles* for farther dealing with him, Ib.
Petition to the Parliament in favours of the Laird of *Glenurchie*, Ib.
Petition in behalfe of Doctor *Sharps* Relick to the Parliament, Ib.
Letter to their Brethren in *Ireland*, Sess. 37.
Committee for conference with General Major *Midleton*, Ib.
Ref. certain persons accessory to the late unlawful engagment to the Commission for publick affairs, Ib.
Ref. *Alexander Urquhart* of *Craighouse* to the visitation of *Rosse*, Ib.
Recom. *Agnes Maxwell* for a charitable supplie to the Parliament, Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Kircaldie*, Sess. 28.
Ref. Earl of *Linlithgow* to his Presbyterie, Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Linlithgow* to the Comission for publick affaires, Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Stirling*, Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Dunse*, Ib.
Ref. for planting the vaiking Kirkes of *Edinburgh* and the vaiking places of the Professors of divinitie there, Ib.
Ref. for planting the Kirk of *Dunkeld*, Ib.
Ref. to the Commission for publick affaires concerning the education of the Earle of *Athole*, Ib.
Ref. Mr. *Colin Mackenzie* and Mr. *David Monroe* to the visitation of *Rosse*, Ib.
Act for collecting the history of these latter times, Ib.
Recom. of persons for charitie, Ib.
Recom. *Julian Wilkie* for charitie Ib.
Recom. concerning the Kirk of *Berwie* to the Commission for planting of Kirks, Ib.
Act for writing to Universities for prosecuting the course of Philosophie, Ib.
Recom. Mr. *Robert Iamesone* for some supplie out of the vaiking stipends, Ib.
Ref. concerning the adjoining the paroch of *Mouth hill* to the parish of *Glasse* to the Presbyteries of *Strabogy* & *Fordice*, Ib.
Recom. concerning the dividing of the paroch of *Turro*, Ib.
Ref. *Lewis Gordon* to the Comission for publick affairs, Sess. 39.
Ref. *William Innes* of *Tippertae* to the Presbyterie of *Allane* to be relaxed, ib.
Petition to the Parliament concerning exacting Oathes in the cases of custome & excise, Sess. 40.
Commission for visitation of *Rosse*, ib.
Commission for visitation of *Orknay*, *Zetland*, *Southerland*, and *Caithnes*, ib.
Act concerning the payment of *Ja: Murrayes* dues, ib.
Recom. to Mr. *John Smith* and Mr. *James Hammilton* to draw some articles

articles concerning the duties of Elders, ib.
Ref. Viſcount of *Kenmure*, ib.
Ref. Doctor *Strange*, Seſſ. 41.
Ref. concerning the modification of *Alexander Gutherie* to the viſitation of *Angus* and *Merns*, ib.
Act and Recom. to the Magiſtrates of *Edinb.* for repairing of the Aſſembly houſe, ib.
Ref. to the Commiſſion for publick affaires to provide ſome way for Miniſters to ſay prayers to the Lords of Seſſion, ib.
Ref. to Commiſſion for publick affaires for providing a Miniſter to the Caſtell of *Edinburgh*, ib.
Directory for election of Miniſters, ib.
Ref. Mr. *George Hannay* to the Commiſſion for publick affaires, ib.
Ref. and Recom. to the Commiſſi. for ſatisfying the paines of the writer, of the paraphraſe of the Pſalms Seſſ. 42.
Ref. concerning G. M. *Midleton* to the commiſſion for publick affaires, ib.
Act concerning the Univerſity of St. *Andrews* during the vacation of the Proveſts place of the old Colledge, ib.
Recom. to the Presbyteries in the North to count with the Laird of *Eight* upon the fines of excommunicate perſons to be applyed to pious uſes and to report to the next Aſſembly, ib
Act appointing Miniſters for the Army, ib.
Ref. *Rorie Mackenzie* to the viſitation of *Roſſe*, ib.
Ref. Mr. *William Colvills* paper to the commiſſion for publick affaires, ib.
Recom. Presbyteries and Synods to ſend any informations they can give concerning the paſſages of theſe times to the Moderator, ib.
Recom. for ſending the contribution of 40. S. for the Highland boyes to the Collectors, ib.
Ref. to the viſitors of *Argyle* for diſtribution of the money formerly collected, ib.
Exemption of *Dunkeld* of the Collection for *Argyle*, ib.
Act for continuation of the allowance for diſpatches to the next Aſſembly, with a Recom. for conſering with my Lord Regiſter and the Clerk about the perſon to be employed in that charge, ib.
Recom. to the Commiſſion for publick affaires concerning the ſetling of Mr. *John Menzies* in the profeſſion of Divinity at *Aberdene*, ib.
Ref. for appointing a ſecond Miniſter in *Perth* to the Commiſſion for publick affaires, ib.
Ref. and Recom. Mr. *William Chalmers* to the Synod of *Aberdeen* concerning the ſupply of his neceſſities, ib.
Declaration concerning the Act granted in favours of Mr. *Richard Maitlands* wife, ib.
Ref. of the petition of the Earle of *Sutherland* in the name of the Presbyterie of *Sutherland*, ib.
Recom. Mr. *John* Keyth to the Parliament, ib.
Recom. for dividing the paroch of *Ferne* to the Commiſſion for planting of Kirks, ib.
Recom. the diſjoyning of the lands of over and nether *Dyſert* from *Brichen* to the Commiſſion for planting of Kirks, ib.
Cauſes of a publick faſt, ib.
Commiſſion for conſidering the obſtructions of pietie and the remedies for removing thereof, & to report to the next Aſſembly, ib.
Recom. to the Parliament for puniſhing counterfeit Teſtimonials, ib.

FINIS.